

Letter to the Editor

Severe allergic hair dye reactions in 8 children

Dear Sir,

I was not surprised to read the article by Sosted et al. (1) that 6 of the 8 children with severe contact allergic reactions to hair dyes had a history of temporary tattooing.

The practice of adding permanent dyes to enhance the so-called temporary tattoos has been recognized for years and is an epidemic of truly global proportions. As a general practitioner, I reported 3 such cases from my own patient base at the European Academy of Oematology and Venereology meeting in London in 2005.

Exposure to paraphenylenediamine (PPD) as part of temporary tattooing is illegal, but given its ubiquitous nature, its practice is scandalously ignored by local trading standards in many countries.

I feel the most important outcome of this study should be the need to identify strategies (with the appropriate authorities) to expunge this a deliberate transepidermal violation of children with recognized allergens.

Further, we should seek to drive them to deliver punitive fines to transgressors and provide better information to the public.

We have to accept that permanent hair dyeing is a worldwide desire and is daily practiced by millions of women (and men). Collaborative efforts to end this abuse of children should be our first goal.

John E. Gray

Grays Medical Practice, Gosbury Hill Health
Centre, Chessington, Surrey, UK

Reference

1. Sosted H, Duus Johansen J, Andersen K E, Menne T. Severe allergic hair dye reactions in 8 children. *Contact Dermatitis* 2006; 54: 87.

Address:

Dr J. E. Gray, MBBS, MRCP
Grays Medical Practice
Gosbury Hill Health Centre
Orchard Gardens
Chessington
Surrey KT9 1AG
UK
Tel: 0208 397 7019
Fax: 0208 397 4441
e-mail: gray.j.3@pg.com