What To Know About Getting a Tattoo

You should understand the risks and research the process before getting a tattoo. Tattooing involves breaking the skin, which is one of your body's main protective barriers. This means you may be more susceptible to skin and blood infections. Some of the risks can include but are not limited to:

Bloodborne diseases. If the equipment used to do your tattoo is contaminated with the blood of an infected person, you can contract a number of serious bloodborne diseases. These include hepatitis C, hepatitis B, tetanus and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Skin infections. Skin infections. The use of unsterile equipment or re-used ink can result in skin infections, ranging from minor to potentially serious antibiotic resistant infections. Symptoms may include redness, swelling, or pus-like drainage.

Granulomas. Bumps may form around the site of the tattoo as a reaction to the ink.

Scars and keloids. The ink may cause scars and keloids (raised, ridged areas caused by overgrowth of scar tissue).

Allergic reactions. The ink may cause an itchy rash at the tattoo site.

Swelling or burning. Tattooed areas may swell or burn during Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams.

Ask your body art professional about their Bloodborne Pathogen Training, the establishment's proficiency requirements, and the establishment's autoclave monthly spore test results.

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