



MEDICO-LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN REMOVAL OF TATTOOS: THREE CASE REPORTS

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Abstract

For a medico-legal expert tattoos are a fairly important entity. Tattoos have many medico-legal issues to deal with and very similarly the removal of tattoos also bears a significance. When considered as a nation most of the Sri Lankans are not rich enough to remove the tattoos using laser treatment methods, instead crude methods are still being used to remove tattoos. Even laser treatment is not hundred percent guaranteed as it depends on many factors such as the ink type, depth etc. Removal of the tattoo, in the case number one was achieved by keeping a hot hopper on tattoos in order to forget his past memories. In the second case, a mixture of burnt lime, soap and salt was kept on the tattooed skin to erode the skin as the patient felt that it was unnecessary. Laser treatment was employed in the third case in order to join the army. The paper discusses the permanency of a tattoo, once it was inflicted and the surrounding medico-legal, psychological and social issues.

Keywords: removal of a tattoo, medico-legal and social importance, permanency of tattoos