



EUROPEAN
ACADEMY OF
DERMATOLOGY &
VENEREOLGY

Information Leaflet
for Patients

Tattoos on skin of color



The aim of this leaflet

This leaflet is designed to help individuals with skin of color and tattooists to understand more about risks and myths surrounding tattooing on skin of color.

Tattoos on skin of color

A reminder of the myths of dark skins

Dark skin is not dryer

Dark skin is not thicker

Dark skin does not heal differently

Dark skin is not at risk of specific healing issues after tattooing

I have dark skin, am I at risk to get keloids on my tattoo?

Keloids are a firm and raised scar that can develop on a healed skin injury. Young individuals, individuals with family history of keloids and individuals with sub Saharan ascent are more at risk of developing keloids.

Keloids on tattoos are an exceedingly rare complication.

Spontaneous keloids are rarely observed after tattooing an individual with skin of color, even when the individual has a history of keloids.

Hypertrophic scars and keloids are more frequently a complication during a problematic healing phase (poor healing, infection, non-professional tattoo) or after removal attempt with laser or chemical substances.

Can I get a colored tattoo on my dark skin?

Yes, you can get a tattoo with colors on your skin. However, colors may appear differently according to your skin tone.

The lighter your skin is, the more variety of colors can be used.

Can I get my tattoo removed by laser despite my dark skin?

Effective laser removal in patients with darker skin can be achieved, although there could be more challenges and a greater risk of complications.

If you consider tattoo removal, we suggest you consult an experienced dermatologist to discuss the laser procedure and the risks of tattoo laser removal in your specific situation.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this leaflet is accurate, not every treatment will be suitable or effective for every person. Your own clinician will be able to advise in greater detail.