

Black Henna Tattoo Resulting in Localized Hypertrichosis: One More Case: Letter to the Editor

Lokalize Hipertrikoza Sebep Olan Siyah Kına Dövmesi: Bir Olgu Daha

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There was only one case of a henna pseudotattoo resulting in temporary hypertrichosis reported in the literature previously.¹ Subsequently, we reported three cases of localized hypertrichosis due to temporary henna tattoo.² Here, we present another case of a henna tattoo resulting in temporary hypertrichosis.

A 24-year-old woman had received a paint-on henna tattoo on back of her shoulder during her holiday (Figure 1). The street vendor had instructed her to wash the tattoo 4 hours later. Localized hypertrichosis had appeared over the tattoo area within a few days (Figure 2). When the tattoo faded, prominent localized hypertrichosis was observed over the same area as the tattoo (Figure 3A, B). The hypertrichosis resolved spontaneously within 3-4 months (Figure 4).

Darkness-enhancing substances are added to henna powder to shorten the time of application. These substances that contains include instant coffee powder, charcoal powder and 'secret formula' containing varying amounts of lemon oil, vinegar, eucalyptus oil, clove oil and paraphenylenediamine (PPD).^{3,4} Although natural red/brown henna have been traditionally performed with a few side effects, the addition of several chemical agents to obtain black henna has increased the risk of developing side effects. Unfortunately, the complete ingredients of the pastes used for temporary henna paint on tattoo could not be determined so far.² Here we presented another case of henna tattoo resulting in prominent localized hypertrichosis. As a street vendor performed the tattoo in holiday, we were unable to ascertain its exact composition. However, the following question easily arises in minds. Whatever the "secret formula" was, that could cause prominent hypertrichosis within four hours of exposure, could also be a temporary but effective solution for alopecia?



FIGURE 1: The paint-on henna tattoo on back of the shoulder.



FIGURE 2: Localized hypertrichosis had appeared over the tattoo area within a few days.



A



B

FIGURE 3A-B: Prominent localized hypertrichosis observed over the same area as the tattoo within a week.



FIGURE 4: The hypertrichosis resolved spontaneously within 3-4 months.

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