# Establishing a Tattoo Center and Pro Bono Tattoo Removal Service in New York City

MARIE LEGER MD PHD

METRO DERMATOLOGY ELMHURST QUEENS MARCH 27, 2018

## Bispebjerg Tattoo Clinic, Copenhagen





### Nation's First Tattoo Clinic Finds Ink Answers In NYC

The William Street Tattoo Center in the Financial District is a first-in-the-nation clinic dedicated to tattoo-related medical issues.

By Noah Manskar, Patch Staff | Apr 15, 2018 9:00 am ET | Updated Apr 16, 2018 11:37 am ET







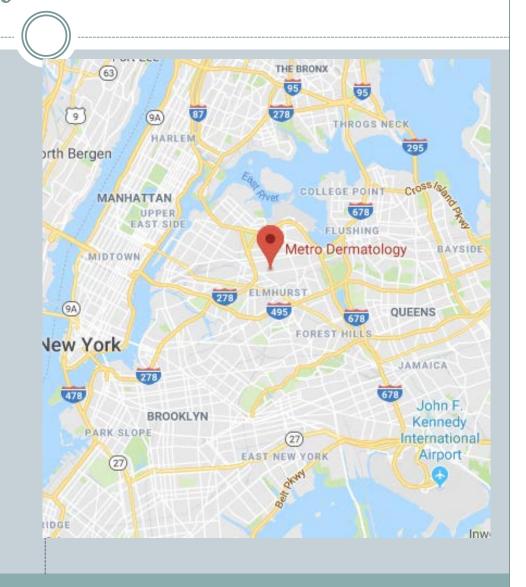


## Metro Dermatology Tattoo Center in NYC

- Established at Cornell University in 2017
- Moved to Metro
   Dermatology in New

   York City in 2018

- Referrals
  - Tattoo artists
  - Primary care
  - Dermatologists



## Metro Dermatology Tattoo Center

- Education of public and tattoo artists on adverse reactions and skin health
- Education of tattoo artists on skin cancer screening
- Lectures on tattoo reactions to US dermatologists
  - American Academy of Dermatology 2019
  - Boston University Grand Rounds 2019
  - University of Pennsylvania Grand Rounds 2018
  - New York Metropolitan Hospital 2018
  - New York Dermatological Society 2018
- Pro-bono tattoo removal

## Case 1

- 35 year old man with tattoo obtained on right forearm
- Had warts on his hand at the time of tattoo application

## Case 1: Warts Associated with Tattoo

- Over the course of the next several weeks and months developed verrucous papules within tattoo
- Treated with combination of topical imiquimod and liquid nitrogen

## Case 2

47 yo F with raised itchy portion of tattoo for one year. Tattoo had been obtained 22 years prior, but the red portion was touched up one month before the tattoo became raised and pruritic

PMH: DM

## Case 2: Tattoo Allergy

Biopsy: Acanthotic epidermis with pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia. Perivascular lymphoplasmacytic dermal infiltrate with a few eosinophils and red tattoo ink

## Tattoo Allergy

 Red ink on back and chest also raised. Patient unaware

#### http://informahealthcare.com/jdt ISSN: 0954-6634 (print), 1471-1753 (electronic)

J Dermatolog Treat, 2015; 26(5): 451–455 © 2015 Informa UK Ltd. DOI: 10.3109/09546634.2014.999021

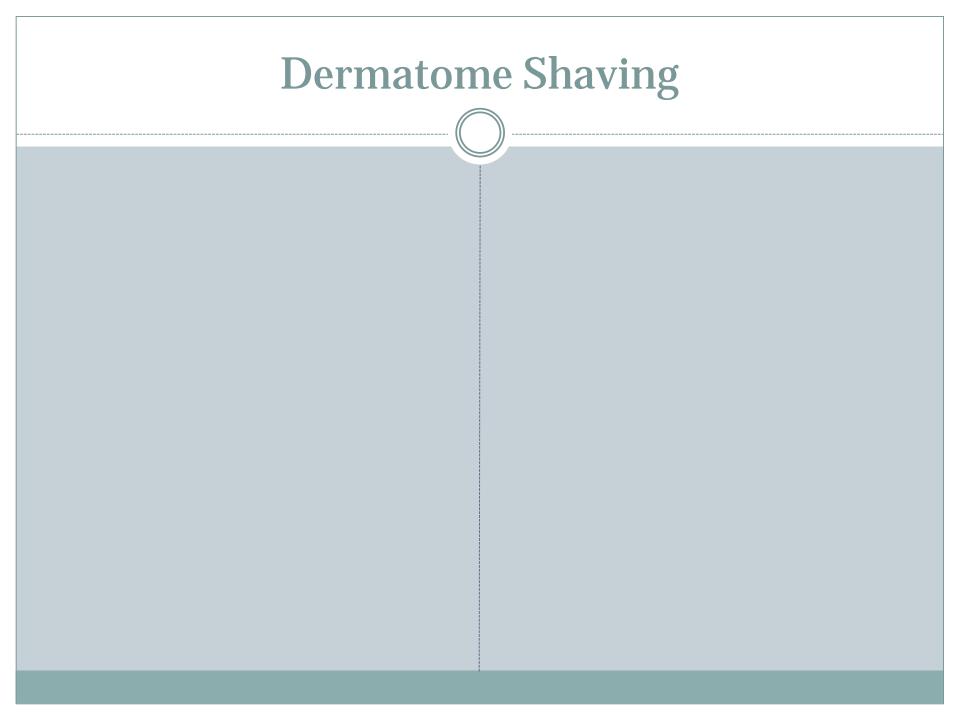


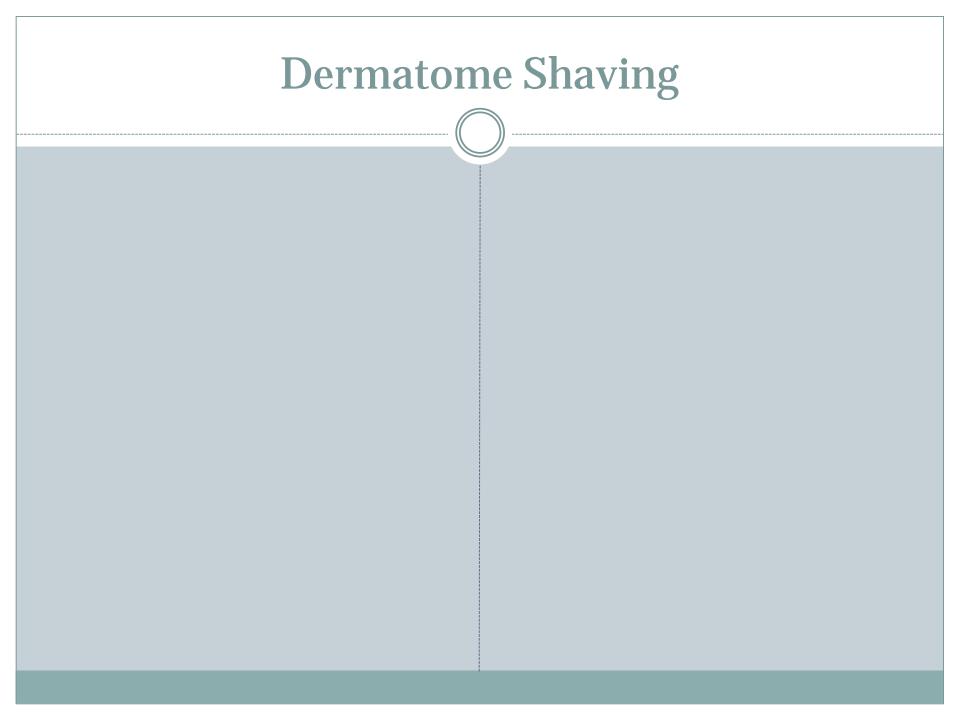
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Introduction of dermatome shaving as first line treatment of chronic tattoo reactions

Mitra Sepehri<sup>1</sup>, Bo Jørgensen<sup>1</sup>, and Jørgen Serup<sup>2</sup>









## Case 3

25 yo M with pruritic bumps associated with black and red tattoo ink on left arm, right arm, left calf, and right thigh started 3 months prior, most recent lesion 2 weeks prior. Affected tattoos obtained from 1.5-5 years ago

PMH: none

**ROS:** negative

## Case 3: Tattoos and Sarcoidosis

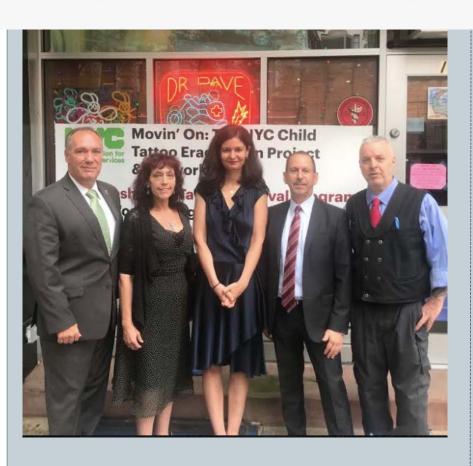
Biopsy: Sarcoidal granulomas in association with exogenous black carbon pigment

Workup: mild transaminitis, Subtle hilar LAD normal PFTs



## ACS unveils free tattoo removal program for trafficking victims, ex-gang members

Medical professionals with tattoo removal experience have signed on to perform the service for free.



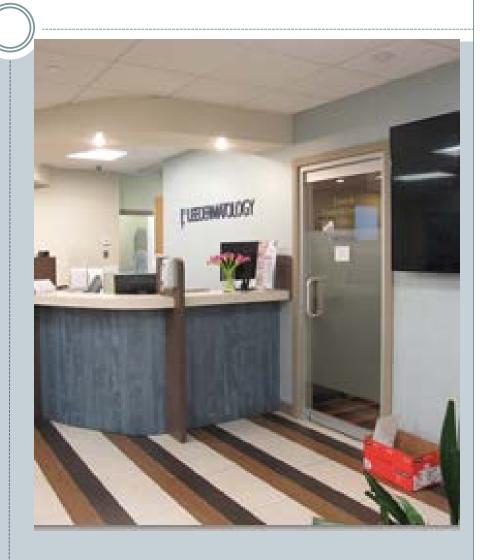
- Children come from foster care, runaway children, undocumented immigrants
- Recruited on internet
- Nearly 3,000 New York
   City youths were identified
   as either trafficked or at
   risk of trafficking in a 2017
   report by the NYC Safe
   Harbour Program a 21
   increase from 2016

## Legal Aid Society Exploitation Intervention Project



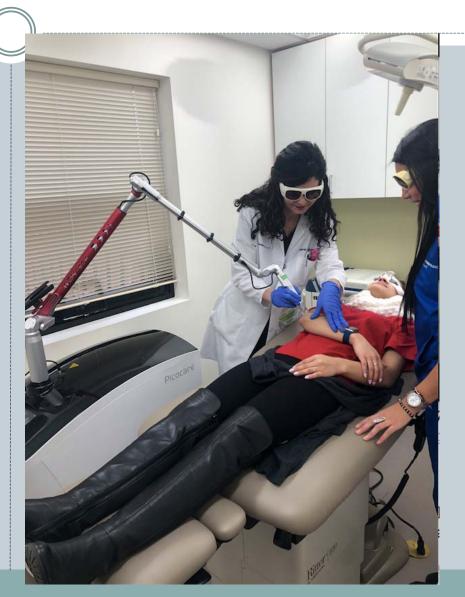
## Metro Dermatology Pro-bono Tattoo Removal

- Pro-bono tattoo removal for victims of sex trafficking
- Established October 2018
- Referral Sources
  - Administration for Children's Services New York
  - Legal Aid, Brooklyn
- Every third Saturday of the month
- Spanish, Mandarin,
   Korean, Hindi spoken



## Tattoo Removal Program

- 12 patients treated as of March 2019
- Same day as patients being seen in general dermatology clinic
- Topical anesthesia combined with injected anesthesia
- Pico laser technology used
- Child care available



## Pro-bono Tattoo Removal

Trafficked for 7 years and forced to have intercourse with 25 men a day

Free from her trafficker for 10 years but still has forced tattoos of his initials

She insists on always keeping them covered

Tattoo removal is a critical element in her healing process

## Thank you!

• macleger@gmail.com