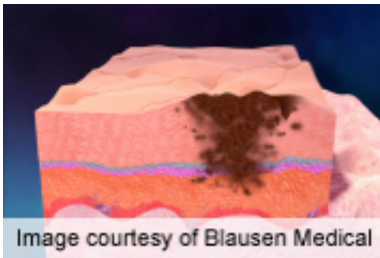


# Skin cancer may develop during laser removal of tattoo

August 2 2013

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Malignant melanoma may develop on a preexisting nevus within a tattoo that is being removed with laser therapy, according to a case report published online July 31 in *JAMA Dermatology*.

(HealthDay)—Malignant melanoma may develop on a preexisting nevus within a tattoo that is being removed with laser therapy, according to a case report published online July 31 in *JAMA Dermatology*.

Laura Pohl, M.D., of Laserklinik Karlsruhe in Germany, and colleagues describe the first case of a malignant melanoma that formed on a preexisting nevus within a tattoo during and between phases of removal with [laser therapy](#).

The researchers found a suspicious nevus on the right shoulder of a 29-year-old male during laser removal of large, multicolored tattoos on both arms and the chest. Initially, the patient refused to allow excision of the nevus. When continued [laser treatment](#) was made conditional upon

removal of the nevus, the patient consented. Biopsy results showed the lesion was a superficial spreading malignant [melanoma](#).

"In general, tattoos should never be placed on pigmented lesions; if they are, the tattoos should not be treated by laser," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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