

Tattoos linked to rare skin infection in US

10 August 2011

At least two men may have come down with a rare bacterial skin infection that is hard to treat with antibiotics after getting tattoos at a store in Seattle, US health authorities said Wednesday.

One 44-year-old man was confirmed to have a case of *Mycobacterium haemophilum* after getting a tattoo on his arm in the western US city in August 2009, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) said.

The infection, which showed up as a bumpy red rash and a pus infection on the skin's surface, resisted treatment with several antibiotics but eventually disappeared after nine months.

A second suspected case was reported in a 35-year-old man who got a tattoo at the same place two months later, but tests were inconclusive. The CDC said it considered it a "suspected" instance of infection.

The source of the bacteria remains a mystery. Authorities said the tattoo parlor was in compliance with safety regulations but told the owner to use sterilized water for rinsing skin and diluting ink instead of [tap water](#).

(c) 2011 AFP

APA citation: Tattoos linked to rare skin infection in US (2011, August 10) retrieved 16 November 2019 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-08-tattoos-linked-rare-skin-infection.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.