

Easy B Facts

Hepatitis B and Tattoos

There is a very real chance that you could get hepatitis B while being tattooed, if safety practices are not followed very carefully. The risk is much higher if you get a tattoo in prison or on the streets, because there is usually less attention to safety.

If you have received a tattoo in a place that does not follow proper safety measures, it might be a good idea to get tested for hepatitis B and C because there is a greater risk of transmitting them in unsafe settings.

If you decide to get a tattoo, ask the tattooist about the safety procedures that he or she follows. You might even ask them if you can watch while they work on someone else so you can see if they are following the correct procedures.

We recommend you get a tattoo in a commercial tattoo parlor that follows these safety measures:

- Uses only new needles and separate ink pots on each person
- Uses brand new safety gloves
- Cleans and disinfects all surfaces
- Sterilizes any equipment that may come into contact with blood in a machine called an autoclave
- Always covers fresh tattoos with a dressing to prevent infection or transmission
- Properly disposes of all materials that may have come into contact with blood, and uses a “sharps” bin or a puncture-proof container

Visit <http://hcvadvocate.org/publications/fact-sheets/tattoos/> for more information about safer tattooing.



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Hepatitis C
Support Project