

**Position Statement  
on  
Temporary Black Henna Tattoos Containing Paraphenylenediamine (PPD)  
(Approved by the Board Directors: April 26, 2008; Revised: August 7, 2021)**

Ink containing paraphenylenediamine used in some henna tattoo preparations may lead to allergic contact dermatitis. The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) endorses a ban on the practice of applying paraphenylenediamine-adulterated henna tattoos.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

References:

1. Encabo Durán B, Romero-Pérez D, Silvestre Salvador JF. Allergic Contact Dermatitis Due to Paraphenylenediamine: An Update. Actualización en la dermatitis de contacto alérgica por parafenilendiamina. *Actas Dermosifiliogr* (Engl Ed). 2018;109(7):602-609. doi:10.1016/j.ad.2017.12.007
2. Mukkanna KS, Stone NM, Ingram JR. Para-phenylenediamine allergy: current perspectives on diagnosis and management. *J Asthma Allergy*. 2017;10:9-15. Published 2017 Jan 18. doi:10.2147/JAA.S90265
3. Atwater AR, Bembry R, Reeder M. Tattoo hypersensitivity reactions: inky business. *Cutis*. 2020;106(2):64-67. doi:10.12788/cutis.0028
4. de Groot AC. Side-effects of henna and semi-permanent 'black henna' tattoos: a full review. *Contact Dermatitis*. 2013 Jul;69(1):1-25. doi:10.1111/cod.12074. PMID: 23782354.

*This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.*