

# Surveillance and analysis of risk factors for hepatitis B and C among tattooists and piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings.

Published: 12-07-2007

Last updated: 08-05-2024

To gain insight into the prevalence of HBV and HCV and risk factors for HBV and HCV among (former) tattooists and piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings.

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Pending
<b>Health condition type</b>	Viral infectious disorders
<b>Study type</b>	Observational invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON30905

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Surveillance of HBV en HCV among tattooists and piercers.

### Condition

- Viral infectious disorders

### Synonym

hepatitis B/C, viral liver infection

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** GGD amsterdam

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** ZonMw

## Intervention

**Keyword:** hepatitis B, hepatitis C, piercings, tattoos

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

-the prevalence of hepatitis B and C among (former) tattooists and piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings.

-risk factors for hepatitis B and C infection

### Secondary outcome

nvt

## Study description

### Background summary

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a bloodborne infectious disease. In approximately 55-85% of the cases patients will become chronically infected. An estimated 20-30% of the chronically infected will develop liver cirrhosis after approximately 30 years. In 3-5% of the cases this will cause major health problems on the long term, for instance liver failure and liver cancer.

Till now, little data is available about the prevalence of HCV in the Netherlands, among the general population as well as among risk groups. In 2001 HCV treatment has improved substantially. Therefore, in 2004 the Dutch Health Council advised to trace HCV risk groups and inform them about the risks and improved treatment options. They also advised to perform epidemiological studies to gain insight into the spread of HCV in the Netherlands.

This study is in line with the advice of the Dutch Health Council. It aims to gain insight into the prevalence of HCV among a risk group: tattooists and piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings.

Based on the results of this study it can be advised to regularly screen all tattooists and piercers on HCV and to start prevention campaigns. Participants might obtain their test result, but might also decide not to. HCV positive tattooists and piercers who choose to contact the Health Services for their testresult, will be referred for further diagnostic measures and treatment. Furthermore, based on the results of this study, individuals who want to have a tattoo or piercings can be informed about possible HCV risks.

Tattooists en piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings might also have an increased risk for hepatitis B. HBV is also a bloodborne infection but can also be spread by sexual contact. About 10% of the patients will become chronically infected with HBV. A chronic infection might cause a serious liverinfection or livercirrhosis. Because of the serious complications and the infectiousness of HBV and the fact that an infection might be asymptomatic, it is important to detect the infection at an early stage. A chronic infection needs treatment. There is a vaccination available for HBV. Risk groups, household contacts of HBV infected persons and patient with other chronic liver diseases are advised to get a HBV vaccine.

Based on the HBV test results, information campaigns can be started to prevent further spread within our study population. Participants who decide to obtain their test result will get the first HBV vaccination for free. Chronically infected participants will be referred fot treatment.

### **Study objective**

To gain insight into the prevalence of HBV and HCV and risk factors for HBV and HCV among (former) tatooists and piercers and individuals with multiple tattoos or piercings.

### **Study design**

The hepatitis study is a cross-sectional observational study.

### **Study burden and risks**

The burden associated with participating in this study consists of drawing two blood samples by venapuncture and filling out a questionnaire. There are almost no risks associated with drawing a blood sample.

It would take approximately 20-30 minutes to fill out the questionnaire and to draw the blood sample.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

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### **Scientific**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

- Currently or previously having worked as a tattooist or body piercer.
- Having multiple tattoos or piercings.
- Aged 18 years or older.

### Exclusion criteria

- written informed consent has not been obtained
- not meeting the inclusion criteria

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

## Recruitment

NL  
Recruitment status: Pending  
Start date (anticipated): 01-06-2007  
Enrollment: 700  
Type: Anticipated

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METC Amsterdam UMC

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL16595.018.07