

HOW SAFE IS COSMETIC TATTOOING?

Very safe, according to the Center for Disease Control. There has not been any incidence of HIV attributable to tattooing nor has there been any increase of Hepatitis B in the last 10 years. When the tattoo or permanent cosmetic work is done under proper conditions, there is not opportunity for disease transmission. If the technician is using an autoclave on their instruments, not reusing needles and has a clean, sanitary environment, the chances of developing any type of communicable disease are remote if not impossible.

The media opened up the chances of allergic reactions. The chances of developing an allergic reaction to pigments are extremely remote. Less than .1% in over 100,00 estimated permanent cosmetic procedures performed nationwide over the last 10 years resulted in an allergic reaction, according to "Micropigmentation, State of the Art", by Charles S. Zwerling, M.D.

As is true on many issues in this industry, the question of MRI safety has also been incorrectly reported. According to Dr. Frank Shellock of Tower Imaging in Los Angeles, CA, a top expert in MRI safety, only a handful of people have reported minor problems around the eye area and no problems around the lip or brow area. In those rare instances when redness and edema in the eye area occurred, it did not cause any permanent damage. Test studies have confirmed that the "iron" particles in pigment are too microscopic to react as true metal pieces, but rather are more accurately compared with "metals" which already exist microscopically in the body.

Choosing the right technician for you is the most important decision to make when deciding to have a procedure done. Your first concern should be to find someone who follows proper sterilization procedures and works in a clean environment. Next decide by appearance and conversation if this is a person you can work with. Do pictures of their work make you feel comfortable with them? Done properly, permanent makeup should look as natural as and sometimes better than makeup.

So many people have done permanent makeup you can often ask doctors and salons and even friends to find a good technician near you. If not, call the Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals. They are a large not-for-profit society dedicated to safety, ethics and education in the industry. They can give you more information about what to look for in a technician and be able to tell you who is a member of the society in your area.