

## Second Degree Skin Burn with Garlic and Table Salt

Dear Editor,

Unusual burns with many etiologic agents have been reported earlier.<sup>[1]</sup> Garlic burns have also been reported. However, burns due to garlic and table salt mixture for tattoo removal was not reported. A 21-year-old man was admitted with second degree skin burns on the dorsum of the left hand. The patient had applied a mixture of garlic and table salt for removal of multiple tattoos on the dorsa of the fingers. He felt pain and discomfort under the dressing after 4 hours. On opening the dressing there were burns with blisters over the tattoo marks at the site of application [Figures 1 and 2]. The patient was treated symptomatically with drainage of the bullae on outpatient basis and healed uneventfully. The exact mechanism of garlic burn is not fully understood.<sup>[2]</sup> Organic sulfur compound is believed to be the main causative agent in garlic burn. It produces a coagulative necrosis similar to acidic

chemical burns. Contact dermatitis is also believed to be effect of garlic. Salt is used for salabrasion in plastic

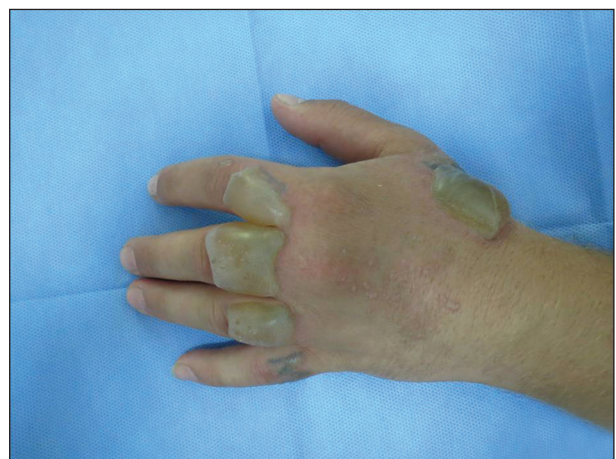


Figure 1: Second degree skin burn on the left hand

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**Figure 2:** View of the left hand after drainage of the bullas

surgery for tattoo removing. Salt abrades superficial epidermis.<sup>[3]</sup> The aim of this report is to highlight the dangers of various home remedies that are used for the treatment of tattoos.

**REFERENCES**

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**DOI:**

10.4103/0974-2077.155102