



Employee FAQ: Tattoos

Do tattoos increase the risk of skin cancer?

The simple answer is 'no'. In studies with mice, there are a limited number of cases that show that red ink may cause cancer. The opposite results were seen with black ink. It seems to protect against skin cancer. There have been a few reports of non-melanoma skin cancers and benign growths from red ink in humans. However, the number of cases do not support the finding that red ink tattoos increase skin cancer risk. There is not enough data to support that tattoos cause skin cancer. There may be a slight increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer with red ink, but data is lacking.