predominantly monocytic pleocytosis with variable elevation of protein concentration. The raised intracranial pressure and optic disc swelling in our patient were transient, and it is likely that intracranial pressure changes associated with meningitis are monophasic like MT infection generally. This has important implications for the extent and duration of treatment of associated raised intracranial pressure.

This is the first report of MT causing proven, isolated meningoencephalitis with raised intracranial pressure in Australia. The clinical manifestations documented represent rarely reported complications of MT without other typical clinical features. The case illustrates that MT should be considered in the differential diagnosis of a patient presenting with “aseptic” meningitis or meningoencephalitis with or without raised intracranial pressure. This is particularly relevant in areas where MT is regularly observed, like south-west WA. However, it should also be considered in other areas of Australia. The absence of other typical features of a typhus-like illness such as rash should not preclude testing for R. typhi, as antibiotic therapy may reduce the duration and severity of the illness, and establishing the diagnosis of MT provides valuable information about the likely course and prognosis of the illness.

Competing interests
None identified.

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SNAPSHOT

Cosmetic lid margin tattoo (or cosmetic blepharopigmentation) is increasingly purveyed in Australia by specialist beauty salons and is marketed as a form of permanent make-up. Like other forms of modern tattoo art, it is applied using an electric needle tip which oscillates at 50–150 cycles per second. Each cycle embeds a small amount of pigment into the dermis. Typically, it is performed after application of a topical local anaesthetic.

In this case, tattoo pigment was inadvertently embedded directly into the cornea. This resulted in severe conjunctivitis and a large epithelial defect. In this image, taken 1 month after the injury, the anterior corneal stroma remains stippled with tattoo pigment.

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Wake up with make-up: complication of cosmetic lid tattoo

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