



B. Fuchs | Haema AG in Leipzig, Germany

HOW TATTOOS AFFECT BLOOD DONATION SERVICES

Haema AG



modern and efficient enterprise in the field of blood donation and -banking

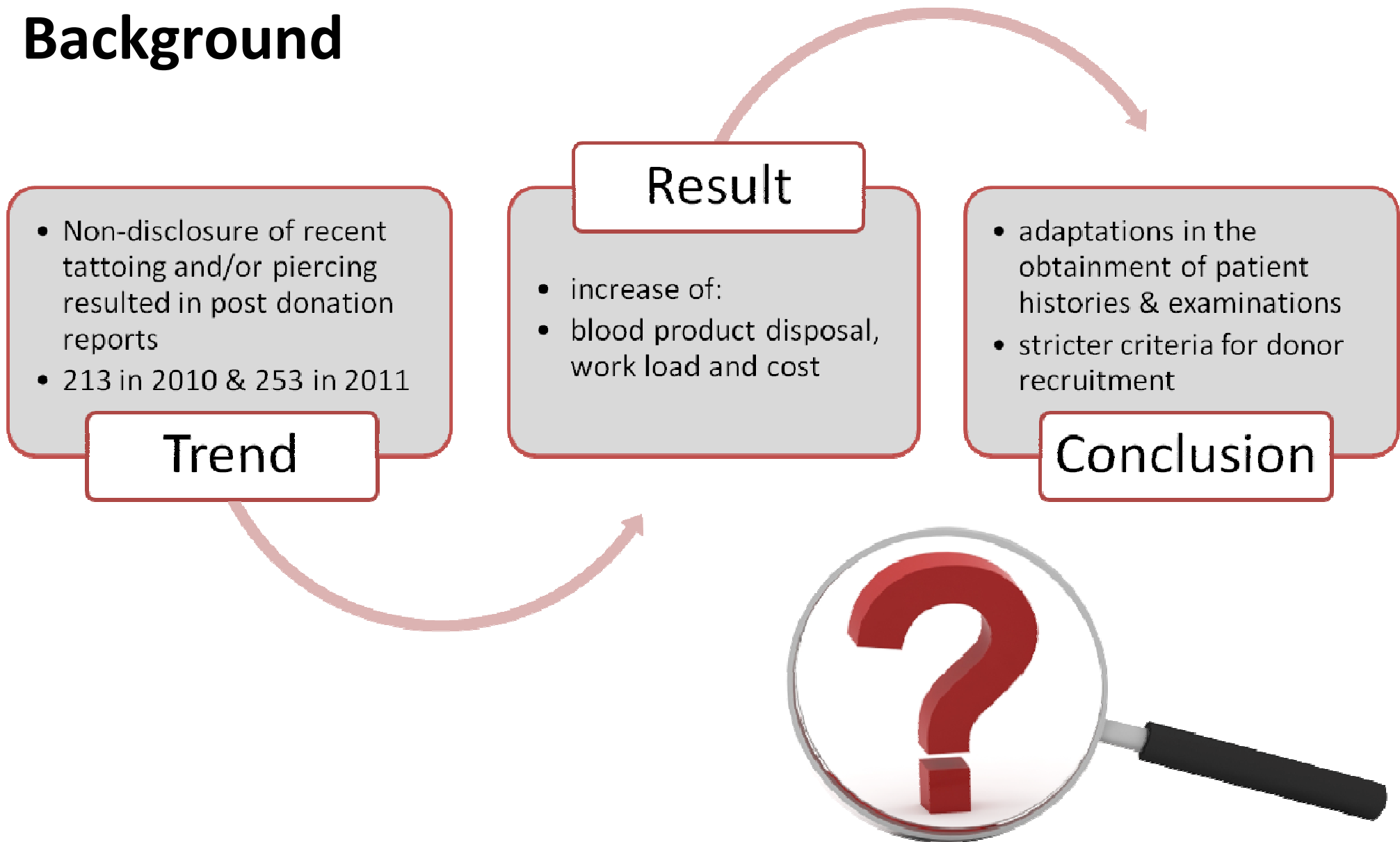
largest independent blood donation service in Germany

33 blood and plasma donation centres in 8 federal states of Germany

more than 1.600 dates for mobile blood donations

more than 1.100 employees and 1.1 million donations of blood, plasma or platelets in 2012

Background



Tattoos and blood donation



Numerous potential or actual blood & plasma donors have **one or more** tattoos



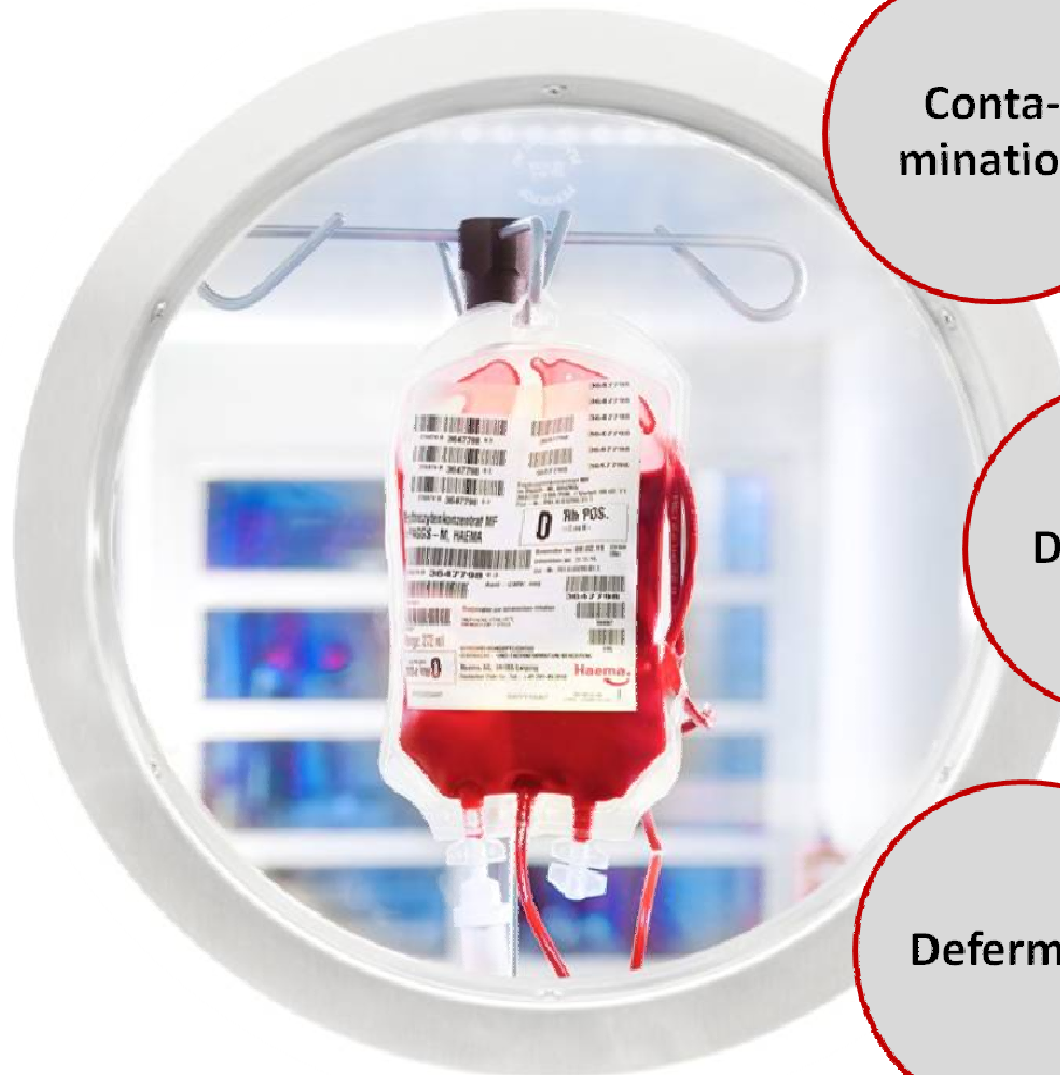
Currently, clear regulations exist only regarding the minimum donor deferral:
→ **4 months** following tattooing to the associated risk of infection with HBV or HCV



Inconsistencies regarding max. tattoo **number**, **size** & **colour** composition at donor reentry

Tattoos affect the work of blood donation service.

Tattoos and blood products



Contamination

- There are currently no studies evaluating potential harm due to contamination of source plasma or clinical blood products with residual dye, ink and India ink

Detection

- Is it possible/necessary to detect residual dye, ink and India ink or metabolites from blood samples of tattooed donors?

Deferment

- Could it be necessary to defer donors who had one or more tattoos removed for longer than just the phase of wound healing due to possibly toxic metabolites?

Short and long term perspective

For now it may **not be reasonable** to adapt current guidelines.

→ However – studies evaluating potential harm from residual tattoo metabolites in recipients of clinical blood products should be conducted.

→ (Depending on their outcome) Might lead to adaptations of our current guidelines.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

