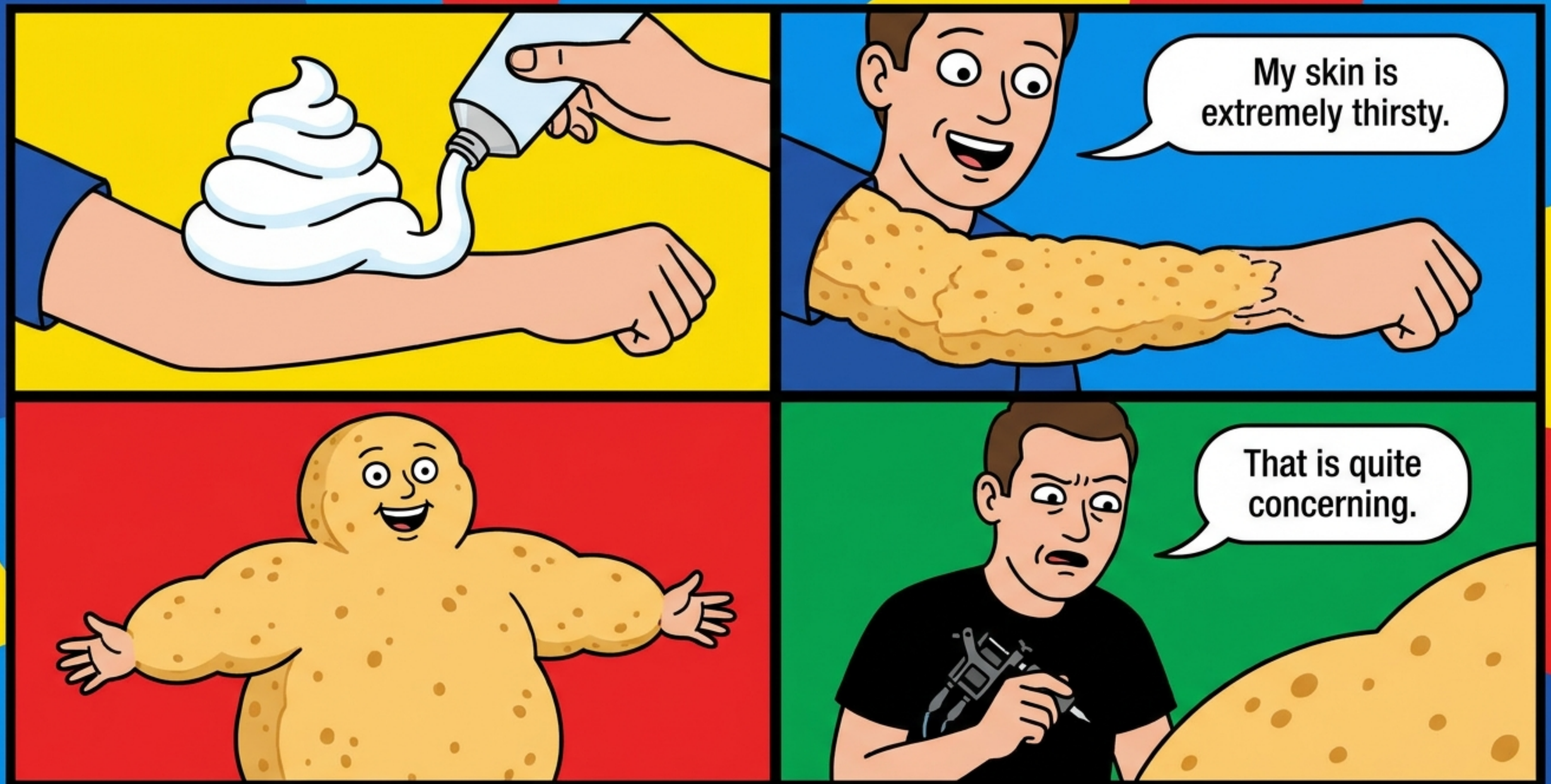


Tattoo needles break the epidermal lipid barrier, accelerating the systemic absorption of topical anaesthetics directly into the bloodstream. The human sponge routine was highly effective but completely misguided.