

IS ORAL PIERCING REALLY COOL?

Oral piercing can cause pain, swelling, infection, drooling, taste loss, scarring, chipped teeth, and tooth loss. Be careful if you decide to get any kind of piercing because of these risks. Your tongue, the most popular piercing site in the mouth, could swell large enough to close off your airway! Piercing also can cause uncontrollable bleeding or nerve damage.

Even if the piercing injury doesn't cause any trouble, you still have to be aware of the hazards the jewelry presents such as hepatitis. Make sure that you ask the person performing the piercing about cleanliness. Does the piercer use a fresh needle for every piercing? Some may reuse needles to keep down the cost of the piercing. Make sure they completely sterilize all needles and instruments in an autoclave, which uses extreme heat to sanitize instruments.

Any infection can be serious. See your dentist at the first sign of a problem. Your mouth has high levels of bacteria. When you puncture any part of the oral cavity, these bacteria may find its way into your bloodstream. Bacteria can reach your heart and cause a variety of health problems.

Keep your piercing clean. Use an antiseptic mouthwash after every meal and brush the jewelry the same as you would your teeth. Also, remember to brush and floss a minimum of twice a day and see your dentist for regular checkups.

This fashion statement involves more than just deciding on jewelry style or placement-this decision could have major consequences for your oral health as well.