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### What To Avoid

•Avoid cleaning with alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Dial® or other soaps containing triclosan,2 iodine, or any harsh products, as these can damage cells. Also avoid ointments as

they prevent necessary ai circulation.

- Avoid Bactine®, pierced ear care solutions, and other products containing Benzalkonium Chloride (BZK). These can be irritating and are not intended for long-term wound care.
- Avoid over-cleaning. This can delay your healing and irritate your piercing.
- •Avoid undue trauma such as friction from clothing, excessive motion of the area, playing with the jewelry, and vigorous cleaning. These activities can cause the formation of

unsightly and uncomfortable scar tissue, migration, prolonged healing, and other complications.

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- Avoid all oral contact, rough play, and contact with others' bodily fluids on or near your piercing during healing.
- •Avoid stress and recreational drug use, including excessive caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol.
- Avoid submerging the piercing in unhygienic bodies of water such as lakes, pools, hot tubs, etc. Or, protect your piercing using a waterproof wound-sealant bandage).
- •Avoid all beauty and personal care products on or around the piercing including cosmetics, lotions, and sprays, etc.
- •Don't hang charms or any object from your jewelry until the piercing is fully healed and always tighten balls on jewelry to avoid ingestion/loss of jewelry.



# Piercing



NOW YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT

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#### How To Take Care Of It

- WASH your hands thoroughly prior to cleaning or touching your piercing for any reason.
- SALINE rinse as needed while healing. For certain piercings it may be easier to apply using clean gauze saturated with saline solution.
- If your piercer suggests using soap, gently lather around the piercing and rinse as needed. Avoid using harsh soaps, or soaps with dyes or fragrances.
- RINSE site as needed to remove cleaning solution residue. Moving or rotating jewelry is not necessary during cleaning or rinsing.
- •DRY by gently patting with clean, disposable paper products. Cloth towels can harbor bacteria and snag on jewelry causing injury.





## What Is Normal?



- Initially: some bleeding, localized swelling, tenderness, and/or bruising.
- During healing: some discoloration, itching, secretion of a whitish- yellow fluid (not pus) that will form some crust on the jewelry. If an infection is present, the secretion will

brownish-green in color, emit a foul odor, be very warm to the touch, and it be very irritated and red. You could also notice a fever that goes along with all of this. If you suspect

an infection, please stop back to talk to me and I can recommend you to a physician for further care. A lot of times infections are confused for just an irritated healing piercing.

• Once healed: the jewelry may not move freely in the piercing; do not force it. If you fail to include cleaning your piercing as part of your daily hygiene routine, normal

but smelly bodily secretions may accumulate.

• A piercing might seem healed before the healing process is complete. This is because tissue heals from the outside in, and although it feels fine, the interior remains fragile.

Be patient, and keep cleaning throughout the entire initial healing period.

• Even healed piercings that you have had for years can shrink or close in minutes! This varies from person to person; if you like your piercing, keep jewelry in—do not leave

the hole empty.



