



## THE ROLE OF DENTAL HYGIENIST

Considering the growing popularity of intraoral and perioral piercings, the dental hygienist should play an active role in educating patients about the potential complications and serious consequences of these procedures and should provide appropriate guidance.

### ORAL PIERCING CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

- Always Wash your hands before handling your piercing.
- Maintain your regimen of flossing and brushing, it will reduce bacteria
- Make sure your jewelry is ring is secure in order to avoid swallowing/choking.
- Remove jewelry twice a day and clean it with antibacterial soap and water.
- To prevent swelling, rinse with salt water several times a day.
- Avoid removing the jewelry multiple times as it may cause more tissue trauma.

## REFERENCES

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5. Selected photographs courtesy of Dr. Cohen-Brown, NYCCT



## ORAL PIERCINGS



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## WHAT IS AN ORAL PIERCING?

It is the penetration or the insertion of an ornament or jewelry into the soft oral and perioral tissues of the face.

## COMMON SITES OF ORAL PIERCINGS:

### Intraoral

- Lips
- Tongue
- Frenum
- Uvula

### Perioral

- Lips
- Chin
- Cheek
- Nose

## TYPES OF ORAL JEWELRY/ORNAMENTS

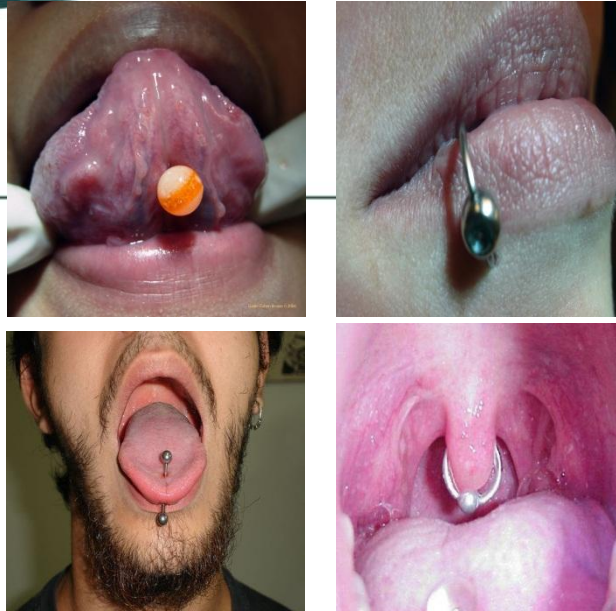
Labret- A bar with a ball, disc, or point at one end, with a flat closing disc at other end

Barbell- A straight or curved bar with balls at each end

Unclosed ring- Ring with a ball at one or both ends

Studs - two components held to a stud

## EXAMPLES OF ORAL PIERCINGS



## QUESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK BEFORE GETTING AN ORAL PIERCING:

- 1-Is the piercer certified?
- 2-Does the piercer use hospital-grade autoclaves for sterilization or disposable instruments?
- 3-Are all the needles, as well as the studs, hoops, and barbells, kept in sterilized packaging? Or new?

## DISEASES AND BACTERIAL INFECTIONS:

Once the tissue is pierced, a wound is created. Bacteria from the mouth and from elsewhere can enter the blood stream causing Bacteremia and Endocarditis. Having an oral piercing can also be a risk factor in transmitting herpes simplex virus and hepatitis (B & C).The pierced site is an ideal place for bacteria to harbor causing multiple complications.

## ORAL PIERCING COMPLICATIONS

### EARLY COMPLICATIONS:

- Swelling and bleeding
- Difficulty in speech, swallowing, and chewing
- Nerve damage (numb tongue)
- Halitosis and increased salivation

### LATE ORAL PIERCING COMPLICATIONS:

- Fracture and chipping of the teeth
- Gingival Recession
- Damage to restorations
- Ulceration due to tissue trauma
- Scars and keloids
- Allergies

