

Facts About Body Piercings

Along with tattoos, piercing of various body parts is a popular form of self-expression. Like tattooing, the risks involved include infections and permanent scarring.

For active-duty members, piercing is not authorized while in uniform, according to Navy instruction, which states that no articles, other than earrings for women, shall be attached to or through the ear, nose or any other body part.

Body piercing is not authorized in civilian attire when in a duty status or while aboard any ship, craft, aircraft or in any military vehicle or within any base or other place under military jurisdiction, or while participating in any organized military recreational activities, according to the instruction.

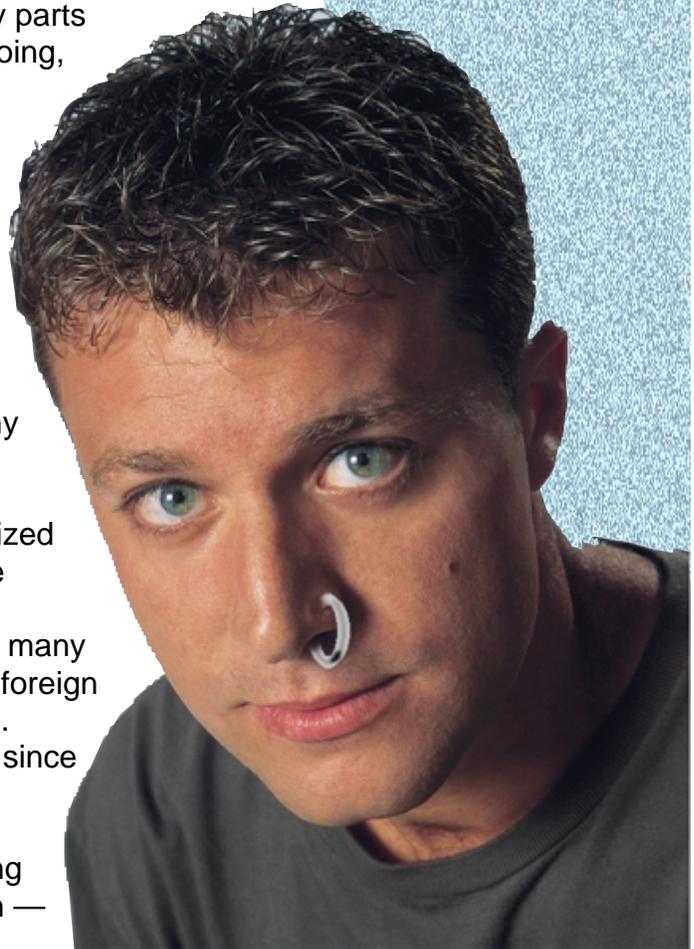
While pierced ears have been common for many years, other body parts don't always accept a foreign object, and can react with infection or scarring.

Piercing of the ear lobe is considered safe since it is made of fatty tissue and has a good blood supply, which can protect in the event of an infection. Piercing of other body parts, including the navel and nipple also have risk of infection — and rejection.

The American Dental Association opposes tongue, lip or cheek piercing. The mouth, which is warm, dark and moist, is an ideal environment for bacteria to form. Other risks include chipped or broken teeth, choking from mouth jewelry or a speech impediment.

In addition to infection, allergic reactions to the jewelry can also cause complications.

For those who think of a piercing as a temporary fashion statement, it's more than likely that a scar will remain.



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