

Policy on Intraoral/Perioral Piercing and Oral Jewelry/Accessories

Originating Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted

2000

Revised

2003, 2011

Reaffirmed

2007

Purpose

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes the importance of educating the public and health professionals on the health implications of intraoral/perioral piercings and oral jewelry/accessories.

Methods

This policy is a revision of the previous document adopted in 2000 and reaffirmed in 2007. The update included a new review of current dental and medical literature, including a systematic literature search of the MEDLINE/PubMed® electronic database with the following parameters: Terms: "oral jewelry", "body piercing", and "oral piercing"; Fields: all; Limits: within the last 10 years, humans, English, birth through age 99. One hundred nineteen articles matched these criteria. Papers for review were chosen from this list and from the references within selected articles. When data did not appear sufficient or were inconclusive, recommendations were based upon expert and/or consensus opinion by experienced researchers and clinicians.

Background

The use of intraoral jewelry and piercings of oral and perioral tissues have been gaining popularity among adolescents and young adults. Intraoral jewelry or other oral accessories may lead to increased plaque levels, gingival inflammation and/or recession, caries, diminished articulation, and metal allergy.¹⁻⁵ Oral piercings involving the tongue, lips, cheeks, and uvula have been associated with pathological conditions including pain, infection, scar formation, tooth fractures, metal hypersensitivity reactions, localized periodontal disease, speech impediment, and nerve damage.⁶⁻²³ Life-threatening complications associated with oral piercings have been reported, including bleeding, edema, endocarditis, and airway obstruction.²⁴⁻²⁹ Unregulated piercing parlors and techniques have been identified by the National Institutes of Health as a

possible vector for disease transmission (eg, hepatitis, tetanus, tuberculosis) and as a cause of bacterial endocarditis in susceptible patients.¹

Policy statement

The AAPD strongly opposes the practice of piercing intraoral and perioral tissues and use of jewelry on intraoral and perioral tissues due to the potential for pathological conditions and sequelae associated with these practices.

References

1. Durosaro O, El-Azhary R. A 10-year retrospective study on palladium sensitivity. *Dermatitis* 2009;20(4):208-13.
2. Hollowell W, Childers N. A new threat to adolescent oral health: The grill. *Pediatr Dent* 2007;29(4):320-2.
3. Jeger F, Lussi A, Zimmerli B. [Oral jewelry: A review]. *Schweiz Monatsschr Zahnmed* 2009;119(6):615-31.
4. Reddy MB. Teeth jewelry. *Anaesthesia* 2003;58(4):401-2.
5. Reyes P. Hole-y mouth jewelry! Piercings could lead to anterior tooth loss. *J Calif Dent Assoc* 2008; 36(9):651,655.
6. National Institutes of Health. Management of hepatitis C and infectious disease. NIH Consensus Conference Statement 105. Section 5, paragraph 2; March 24-26, 1997.
7. American Dental Association. ADA statement on intraoral/perioral piercings and tongue splitting, Amended 2004. Available at: "<http://www.ada.org/1891.aspx>". Accessed November 1, 2010.
8. Boardman R, Smith RA. Dental implications of oral piercing. *J Calif Dent Assoc* 1997;25:200-7.
9. Borchway C, Kuc I. Tongue piercing and associated tooth fracture. *J Can Dent Assoc* 1998;64(11):803-5.
10. Vilchez-Perez M, Fuster-Torres M, Figueiredo R, Valmaseda-Castellon E, Gay-Escoda C. Periodontal health and lateral lower lip piercings: A split-mouth cross-sectional study. *J Clin Periodontol* 2009;36(7):558-63.

11. DeMoor RJ, DeWitte AM, Debuyne MA. Tongue piercing and associated oral and dental complications. *Endod Dent Traumatol* 2000;16(5):232-7.
12. Price SS, Lewis MW. Body piercing involving oral sites. *J Am Dent Assoc* 1997;128(7):1017-20.
13. Campbell A, Moore A, Williams E, Stephens J, Tatakis DN. Tongue piercing: Impact of time and barbell stem length on lingual gingival recession and tooth chipping. *J Periodontol* 2002;73(3):289-97.
14. Ng KH, Siar CH, Ganesapillai T. Sarcoid-like foreign body reaction in body piercing: A report of two cases. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod* 1997;84(1):28-31.
15. Kuczkowski KM, Benumof JL. Tongue piercing and obstetric anesthesia: Is there cause for concern? *J Clin Anesth* 2002;14(6):447-8.
16. Berenguer G, Forrest A, Horning GM, Towle HJ, Karpinia K. Localized periodontitis as a long-term effect of oral piercing: A case report. *Compend Contin Educ Dent* 2006;27(1):24-7.
17. Mercier F, Bonnet M. Tattooing and various piercing: Anaesthetic considerations. *Curr Opin Anaesthesiol* 2009;22(3):436-41.
18. Glendor U. Aetiology and risk factors related to traumatic dental injuries a review of the literature. *Dent Traumatol* 2009;25(1):19-31.
19. Firoozmand L, Paschotto D, Almeida J. Oral piercing complications among teenage students. *Oral Health Prev Dent* 2009;7(1):77-81.
20. García-Pola M, García-Martin J, Varela-Centelles P, Bilbao-Alonso A, Cerero-Lapiedra R, Seoane J. Oral and facial piercing: Associated complications and clinical repercussion. *Quintessence Int* 2008;39(1):51-9.
21. DeBoer S, McNeil M, Amundson T. Body piercing and airway management: Photo guide to tongue jewelry removal techniques. *J Am Assoc Nurse Anesth* 2008;76(1):19-23.
22. Palacios-Sanchez B, Cerero-Lapiedra R, Campo-Trapero J, Esparza-Gomez, G. Oral piercing: Dental considerations and the legal situation in Spain. *Int Dent J* 2007;57(2):60-4.
23. Neiberger E. A large hypertrophic-keloid lesion associated with tongue piercing: A case report. *Gen Dent* 2006;54(1):46-7.
24. Perkins CS, Meisner J, Harrison JM. A complication of tongue piercing. *Br Dent J* 1997;182(4):147-8.
25. Levin L, Zadik Y. Oral piercing: Complications and side effects. *Am J Dent* 2007;20(5):340-4.
26. Kloppenburg G, Maessen J. Streptococcus endocarditis after tongue piercing. *J Heart Valve Dis* 2007;16(3):328-30.
27. Lopez-Jornet P, Navarro-Guardiola C, Camacho-Alonso F, Vicente-Ortega V, Yanez-Gascon J. Oral and facial piercings: A case series and review of the literature. *Int J Dermatol* 2006;45(7):805-9.
28. Smith R, Wang J, Sidal T. Complications and implications of body piercing in the head and neck. *Curr Opin Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2002;10(3):199-205.
29. Martinello R, Cooney E. Cerebellar brain abscess associated with tongue piercing. *Clin Infect Dis* 2003;36(2):32-4.

Copyright of Pediatric Dentistry is the property of American Society of Dentistry for Children and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.