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GENERAL PIERCING AFTERCARE

1. Piercings are susceptible to infection during the healing period. Appropriate aftercare is extremely important.

Piercings heal by forming cells along the inside of the piercing to protect the body from the jewellery. The cells form a tube like layer of skin along the inside of the piercing. This process usually takes 6 to 8 weeks. After the layer has formed, the piercing may constrict around the jewellery. This layer can be easily torn or dislodged; do not force the jewellery to rotate without first applying warm water to allow the skin to expand so that the jewellery can be rotated.

2. Once the layer forms it must toughen and strengthen. This process often requires 6 months to a year. As the piercing becomes more cohesive the entrances will round inwards, like a donut hole, and the piercing will become more flexible and relaxed around the jewellery.
3. If you plan to keep your piercing do not remove your jewellery for any length of time while it is healing. Most body piercings require at least 6 months to a year before it can be removed for any length of time without risk of the piercing closing. After the piercing has toughened, it will not close but will shrink if the jewellery is removed.
4. All piercings produce a lymph discharge during the healing period. The discharge is sticky and white to off-white in colour and dries to a crusty formation around the openings of the piercing and on the jewellery.
5. Symptoms of **infection** may include, pain swelling, inflammation (area feels warm or hot to the touch), excessive redness and a discharge of green pus. If you suspect an infection please contact me before your doctor, especially in the case of oral and facial piercings. **DO NOT REMOVE YOUR JEWELLERY**. If the jewellery is removed the openings of the piercing will close and trap the infection, which can create an abscess.
6. Symptoms of **sensitivity to the cleaning product** may include redness, irritation, itching or burning when the piercing is cleaned, or a rash surrounding the piercing. Over-cleaning the piercings or failure to thoroughly rinse the piercing can cause the openings of the piercing to become red, overly dry and cracked.
7. Symptoms of **sensitivity to the jewellery** will usually manifest immediately and include increasing redness and inflammation, itching and a colourless discharge. The piercing may enlarge or gape around the jewellery as your body tries to reject the jewellery. If you suspect jewellery sensitivity please contact me immediately. Switching to a more biocompatible metal may save the piercing.
8. Occasionally a piercing migrates towards the surface of the skin or rejects (grows out). The piercing becoming narrower and shallower indicates migration and rejection. A scar or dimple often forms where the piercings was originally placed. A piercing that is migrating quickly will form scabs where the piercing was originally placed. Healing will be prolonged; the entrances of the piercing will remain red and ragged. As the piercing rejects, the jewellery may become visible to the skin.
9. The jewellery installed in your piercing is made of implant-grade stainless steel (316L or 316L VM), or other alloys such as niobium or titanium can be installed in a healed piercing and the diameter or length has been selected to fit your anatomy. Every effort has been made to insure the quality of your jewellery.

Please remember that I am not a physician. My suggestions should not be construed as medical advice.