



WHY MEDICAL EAR PIERCING?

We believe that using the Blomdahl Medical Ear-Piercing System, available only to physicians, provides your child with a safer and more sanitary alternative to the mall or jewelry stores. Blomdahl is a sterile system where a disposable cartridge is replaced with every piercing, and it uses medical grade plastic or medical grade titanium studs to reduce the chance of allergic reactions. In a medical office, you have professional care from physicians trained in sterile technique and wound care management. You also have access to medical professionals for any questions, problems, or concerns before, during and after the procedure.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

We will do ear piercing for infants aged 3 months to 9 months and for children 6-7 years of age and older if they have made the decision and are cooperative. This ensures that infants have first set of vaccines, including the DTaP, and allows the ear to grow big enough for more accurate placement of the earring.

After 10 months of age, children are more active making the actual piercing experience more difficult and less safe. After this age, they are also more prone to picking at the earrings making them more susceptible to infection.

Infants are held in their parent's arms during the procedure and the worst part for them is when their head must be held still, and most babies cry only briefly.

For children over 6 years of age, it is important that the child has requested to have their ears pierced and the Parent/Guardian has agreed.

The child needs to be able to sit still during the procedure and has to allow or participate in responsible after-care to ensure a good outcome. We may be able to pierce both ears, in children and teens, simultaneously depending on how cooperative and still the child can be.

WE WILL NOT PIERCE AN OLDER CHILD IF THEY ARE NOT FULLY COOPERATIVE AND ABLE TO SIT STILL WITHOUT BEING RESTRAINED. We reserve the right to cancel a procedure if we feel for any reason, the situation may become unsafe due to the child's inability to cooperate.



WHERE DO WE PIERCE?

We only pierce earlobes. We will do multiple piercings per earlobe but not on the same day. The first piercing needs time to heal for more proper placement of any subsequent piercing. We do not pierce cartilage or other body parts.

COST & PAYMENT

The cost is \$80 (medical grade plastic) or \$90 (medical grade titanium) to pierce both ears and half of these prices if piercing only one ear. This includes the visit fee, procedure fee, earrings, numbing cream if desired, and after-care cleansing kit.

Payment is due in full when you check in for your ear-piercing appointment. Since this is a cosmetic procedure, it is not covered by your insurance, and it will not be billed to your insurance.

EAR PIERCING APPOINTMENTS

You may schedule an Ear-Piercing Visit with Dr. Lee on Calendly or, if your child is a current patient, sending a message via the portal.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF EAR PIERCING?

Before we begin the procedure, the Parent/Guardian will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form which reviews the risks listed below.

1. **Infection** - - There is a risk of infection anytime the skin is broken. We reduce this risk significantly by using sterile technique. The Blomdahl Medical Ear-Piercing System utilizes sterile, single use piercing cassettes. This also eliminates any cross-contamination because only the sterile, single-use part of the equipment ever comes in contact with the skin at the piercing site. We also provide specific After-Care Instructions to keep the piercing clean and healthy during the healing process.
2. **Pain** - - Even without numbing cream the pain is brief and similar to a vaccine injection using the Blomdahl system. Some patients may complain of a warm, flushed feeling on their earlobes after the procedure. Numbing cream is available to further reduce the pain if so desired.
3. **Bleeding** - - There is a risk of bleeding anytime the skin is broken. However, the earlobes do not contain significant blood vessels so that this risk is minimal.



4. Nickel Allergy--Allergic Contact Dermatitis is an itchy rash that occurs when your skin comes in contact with a typically harmless substance. Nickel is one of the most common causes, and once you develop a nickel allergy, you will always be sensitive to it. Nickel is commonly used as a metal hardener and most metals used for ear piercing contain or "leak" enough nickel to trigger a potential allergic reaction. Fresh piercings allow direct and constant contact between a minor open wound and the metal which contains the nickel. However, the Blomdahl Ear Piercing studs utilize only medical grade plastic or medical grade titanium, the most superior non-allergenic metal, thereby eliminating this risk.
5. Keloids--Keloids are shiny, smooth and rounded skin elevations, which are a type of scar tissue, which can form at the piercing site in some patients after the earlobe piercing because of altered wound healing. Keloids tend to run in some families, are more likely to occur in patients with darker skin pigmentation, and generally occur in people 10 to 30 years of age. Please inform us if your child has any health conditions that could cause excessive bleeding, difficulty fighting infections or keloid scar formation.

AFTERCARE PROCESS

1. Clean the piercing site 1-2 times a day, using liquid soap and clean running water or the Aftercare swabs we give you. Especially remember to rinse the site(s) with clean water after showering or washing the hair. Dry area well with clean gauze or a cotton tipped applicator and leave open to air.
2. Unlike conventional ear piercings, there is no need to rotate the temporary plastic studs to prevent
3. them from adhering to the skin. Stick to post or stud earrings for the first several months after piercing. Very small children should wear studs until they get older.
4. Don't touch a piercing unless you are cleaning it.
5. Wash hands before touching a piercing to clean it.
6. Leave earrings in for at least 6-8 weeks after the piercing. This is the standard length of time a piercing takes to heal and if earrings are removed before this point, then the hole may close.
7. After 6-8 weeks you MUST replace the temporary earrings because the post is slightly bigger than typical earrings.



8. We suggest using gold or gold plated (>10 Karat) earrings. There is less of a risk of an allergic reaction to gold. Blomdahl also has medical grade titanium and plastic earrings available for purchase on their website.
9. Keep the gold earrings in for at least 6-9 months to ensure the hole does not close. Do not use "cheap" earrings (exp. from Claire's) or earrings made with nickel for at least the first year.

We are not responsible for hole closures after piercing.



CAN YOU SWIM AFTER EAR PIERCING?

Experts recommend that you stay out of pools, hot tubs, lakes, even the ocean, at least until your piercing is completely healed. However, if you are an avid swimmer and you must get into the water, you can cover your piercing with a waterproof bandage. Keep in mind that not all piercings can be covered while swimming, for example, tongue and lip piercings. Additionally, it might be challenging to cover the whole piercing appropriately, depending on where it is.

You can also use a swimming cap to cover your ear piercings while swimming. Ensure that you buy one designed to protect the ears as some of them don't. Tie your hair up to get it out of the way, and then pull the swimming cap to cover all the necessary areas. Another way to protect your ear piercings is by using a neoprene ear band. A neoprene ear band is similar to a headband like the one you wear before going under a dryer, but this one is waterproof. You can use a neoprene band to reinforce the swimming cap if you want to be safer.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PIERCING AFTER SWIMMING

As you know, most of the water bodies people like to swim in can contain harmful bacteria, which can cause infection to your piercing. To avoid this:

- Shower before and after getting in the pool or ocean.
- After swimming, use shower gel or any other liquid soap to clean the area thoroughly.
- Dry your body thoroughly as well before taking a piece of cotton or Piercing Aftercare cleansing swabs.

Your aftercare routine should remain the same, whether you are swimming or not, until the area is completely healed. Don't forget to clean your hands before disinfecting the piercing. Don't get carried away with the cleaning because too much cleaning can cause skin irritation, which can lead to a more significant wound.

To reduce the risk of infection, do not go swimming immediately after getting a piercing. Wait at least a week. Think of your new piercing as a fresh cut on your finger or hand. If you put it in water immediately, it might continue bleeding, and the bacteria from the water can make it swell and form puss. If you have done all the above and the pain persists, see your general practitioner immediately for further assistance.