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Blomdahl Medical Ear-Piercing

Dr. Shira Schwartz performs the ear piercing in our office. We do ear piercing by **appointment only** and not as an “add on” to another sick or well visit.

Why should I choose medical ear piercing at Olney Pediatrics?

In our office your child will receive professional care from a pediatrician who has been trained in sterile technique and wound management.

The Blomdahl Medical Ear-Piercing System is only available to physicians. The system uses single-use cassettes which minimize the chance of infection at the piercing site and medical-grade plastic piercing studs which eliminates the risk of nickel allergy. Using this system also eliminates the possibility of patient-to-patient cross-contamination because only the single-use part of the equipment ever comes in contact with the skin at the piercing site.

We also offer pre-procedure numbing cream for the ear lobe (which needs to be left on for 30 minutes) in order to minimize (not eliminate) pain during the procedure.

What are the age restrictions for ear piercing at Olney Pediatrics?

We recommend ear piercing occur between **2.5 months (2 weeks after 1st Dtap vaccine) and 15 months** for infants and when school-aged children are **8 years old or older**. Waiting until children are 2.5 months old ensures that they have had their first set of vaccines and allows the ear to grow big enough to allow for accurate placing of the earring. We do not recommend ear piercing for children between 15 months and 8 years of age because the child must either be small enough to allow us to completely control her movements during the procedure or cooperative enough to sit still during the procedure.

All eligible patients must be completely up to date on all vaccines.

Where do we pierce?

We only pierce ear lobes and only do one piercing per lobe per visit. We will perform a second, but not a third piercing, in a single ear lobe. We do not pierce ear cartilage (the upper part of the ear), noses or belly buttons.

How much does it cost?

- We charge **\$80** to pierce up to **two ears**. This price includes piercing the ears and the **temporary** piercing studs which are removed after 6-8 weeks.
- If you choose to use the **numbing cream**, we charge an extra **\$20**.
- Full payment is due when you check in for your ear-piercing appointment.
- Since this is a cosmetic procedure, it will not be filed to your insurance company.

Is swimming ok immediately after ear piercing?

We recommend avoiding swimming for 2 weeks after ear piercing. Chlorine from pools and bacteria in unchlorinated waters may irritate or contaminate the wound and delay healing.

What are the risks of ear piercing?

Before we start the procedure, we will ask you to sign an informed consent form that reviews the risks listed below.

- **Infection:** There is a risk of infection anytime the skin is broken. We reduce this risk significantly by using sterile technique, using sterile, single-use piercing cassettes, and providing specific aftercare instructions.
- **Pain:** Even without numbing creaming the pain is brief and similar to vaccine injection using the Blomdahl system. Patients who are old enough to communicate verbally sometimes say that their earlobes briefly feel warm and flushed after the procedure.
- **Allergy:** We chose an ear-piercing system that uses medical-grade plastic in order to avoid a potential nickel allergy during the ear piercing healing process.
- **Keloids:** Keloids are shiny, smooth and rounded skin elevations, which can form at the piercing site in some patients after ear lobe piercing because of altered wound healing. Keloids tend to be familial, are more likely to occur in patients with darker skin pigmentation, and generally occur in persons 10 to 30 years of age.

How long do we keep the ear-piercing studs in place?

You should remove the temporary earrings **six-eight weeks** after your ear piercing.

- Replace the temporary earrings with **gold or gold plated** (>10 karat) earrings. There is less of a risk of an allergic reaction to gold.
- 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.**

How do I take care of the pierced ears afterward?

1. Clean the piercing site 1-2 times a day, using liquid soap and clean running water. Especially remember to rinse the site(s) with clean water after showering or washing the hair.
2. Dry area well with clean gauze or a cotton tipped applicator and leave open to air.
3. Unlike conventional ear piercings, there is **no need to rotate** the temporary plastic studs to prevent them from adhering to the skin.