



Ear Piercing Frequently Asked Questions
April 2021

Q: Can I get any part of my body pierced?

A: No. We only pierce ear lobes (one or two holes). We do not pierce ear cartilage, belly buttons, tongues, etc.

Q: Can I schedule ear piercing and a sick visit at the same time?

A: No. Ear piercing appointments must be scheduled at a separate time.

Q: What is EMLA?

A: EMLA is the numbing cream we offer with ear piercing. It is a combination of 2.5% Lidocaine and 2.5% Prilocaine. If you would like to have EMLA applied prior to the piercing, please arrive 15 minutes early for your appointment for application. It takes 15-20 minutes for EMLA to work well.

Q: Do I have to use EMLA?

A: No, not at all. It is completely optional.

Q: At what age can my child have their ears pierced?

A: Minimum age is 2 months old with vaccines as below. Please note that we only do ear piercings for babies between 2 months to 9 months of age and for children who are 5 years of age or older.

Q: Does my child have to be vaccinated to have their ears pierced?

A: We require that at least one dose of Hepatitis B and tetanus have been administered at least 2 weeks prior to the appointment.

Q: Do you pierce patients who are not patients at Pediatric Care of Rockville?

A: No.

Q: Do I need a parent to be present for ear piercing?

A: Yes, if you are less than 18 years old.

Q: Can I videotape the ear piercing procedure?

A: Per HIPAA guidelines we do not allow video or audio recordings of the procedure.

Q: Who will be doing the ear piercing?

A: Dr. Cantor and Dr. Uliassi both do ear piercings. They are both board certified pediatricians.

Q: How do I take care of my ears after they are pierced?

A: Please see our “After Care” instructions on our website. You will also be given this information at your appointment.

Q: How are ear piercing appointments scheduled?

A: The appointment is scheduled as a 30 minute visit to allow enough time for the procedure. If you would like to use EMLA, please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment time. Standard office no-show fees apply; please call more than 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel your appointment.

Q: Can I schedule more than one child for ear piercing at the same time?

A: Yes, but they will need separate appointments.

Q: What kind of earrings do you use?

A: We use a system called Gentle Pierce by MediSystem. All of the earrings are made of Medical Titanium, which has an extremely low risk of allergic reaction. Styles in stock may vary.

Q: Are your earrings sterile?

A: Yes. We use single-cartridge earrings that are packaged separately. We do not use a typical “earring gun” so all materials are used only once.

Q: When is it ok to swim after having ears pierced?

A: We recommend waiting at least 4 weeks to allow for healing.

Q: What if my child is very afraid and does not want to sit still?

A: Ear piercing is an elective procedure so we will not use aggressive restraint to complete the procedure. If a child is very fearful and unable to sit still, safety and cosmetic outcomes can be compromised, so we will postpone piercing at that time. Parents may comfort their child during the procedure by holding their hand.

Q: If I have any more questions, whom can I contact?

A: Please contact our office at 301-881-7995.