

Ear Piercing at Heights Pediatrics in Brooklyn, NY

The doctors at Heights Pediatrics are excited to offer this service to our patients.

We have selected the Coren PS Brand which is only available to physicians.

Why should I choose medical ear piercing at Heights Pediatrics?

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

The Coren PS Brand uses single-use cassettes which minimize the chance of infection at the piercing site and sterile gold 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(s) (which needs to be left on for 30 minutes to be effective) in order to minimize pain during the procedure.

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

We recommend ear piercing occur between 6 and 7 months for infants and when school-aged children are 7 years old or older. Waiting until children are 6 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 7 months and 7 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 and be capable of actively participating in aftercare. All eligible patients must be completely up to date on all vaccines.

Can I get ear piercing done at my child's well or sick visit?

Ear piercings are only done during visits solely dedicated to the medical ear piercing procedure. We do ear piercing by appointment only and not as an "add on" to another sick or well visit. This allows enough time to perform the procedure, explain and answer questions about the aftercare, and allow numbing cream to take effect.

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 \$100 to pierce up to 2 ears. This price includes the piercing studs which are removed after 6-8 weeks.
- Full payment is due when you check in for your ear piercing appointment.
- Payment covers the cost of numbing the ear prior to the procedure, piercing the ear(s), and the ear piercing studs (which you leave in for 6 -8 weeks).
- Six to eight weeks after the procedure the piercing studs should be removed and replaced with earrings of your choosing.

Since this is a cosmetic procedure, it will not be filed to your insurance.

Is swimming ok immediately after ear piercing?

We recommend avoiding swimming for 3 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 cream the pain is brief and similar to vaccine injection. Patients who are old enough to communicate verbally sometimes say that their earlobes briefly feel warm and flushed after the procedure. In order to minimize any discomfort, our price includes the use of numbing cream.
- Nickel allergy: Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) 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 of ACD and once you develop nickel allergy you will always be sensitive to it. Unfortunately, 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 nickel.
- 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. In one survey of 32 patients with keloids related to ear piercing, keloids were more than three times as likely to occur when the earlobes were pierced at or after 11 years of age (80%) than before 11 years of age (24%) (Pediatrics. 2005; 115(5): 1312).

How do I take care of the pierced ears afterward?

1. Clean the piercing site thoroughly twice a day, using liquid soap and clean running water at least once a day (preferably after showering or washing the hair).

2. Dry area well with clean gauze or a cotton tip applicator and leave open to air.
3. Leave the ear piercing studs in the earlobe for 6-8 weeks before replacing with earrings.
4. Rotate the studs few times a day so that they don't stick to the skin.