

This month we will be discussing the ear-piercing gun vs. professional body piercing.
(The needle).

First off we will define the term Professional body piercing*, in my opinion a professional piercer is a person and or studio that is of high caliber. One of the most important priorities on these piercers and or studios minds is sterilization, prevention of disease transmission, cross contamination and aseptic technique(a method of keeping a sterile tool sterile.).

Secondly the use of proper implantation grade materials (IE) 316 L surgical stainless steel, 316 LVM surgical stainless steel, titanium ???? , niobium, solid 14kt or 18kt gold, or platinum.

Technique is also of great importance to this brand of piercers and or studios, as I am sure we all know this can have a great impact on the actual discomfort of the piercing, as well as how the piercing will heal.

Bedside manner and proper aftercare are also very high priorities on these professionals minds.

THE GUN:

In personal opinion, I do not feel that it is appropriate to pierce any human with the piercing gun. The main reason I feel this way is due to the fact that the piercing gun can not be properly sterilized. The gun is generally composed of plastic and can not withstand the high heat and pressure of an autoclave, this process causes the piercing gun to melt and destroy it.

It has been reported that in 1998 in Atlanta Georgia there was 220 cases of hepatitis -B passed on to the consumers/ victims from one contaminated piercing gun. Most ear piercing shops only soak their guns in isopropyl alcohol, as this will not even kill vegetable spores let alone hepatitis. People ask how could this happen?

The gun was originally designed in England in the early 1960's for tagging cow's ears. Has anyone thought maybe just maybe were not cows (Moooo). Its kind of odd that the design of the jewelry or the gun has not been changed since then?

The ear piercing gun uses pressure to force the stud through the tissue, when the stud exits the tissue on the back side of the ear the force can cause microscopic blood spray to directly contaminate the back part of the gun . This part then comes in contact with your broken skin , thus being at risk of infection or diseases if not sterilized properly.

The jewelry used in the guns are most commonly of a very poor quality, most of the studs are electroplated with gold. The electroplating process on the studs is usually done by adding a electrical current to cyanide solution with gold suspended in it, this causes the gold to adhere to the base metal. There has been reports that there can be trace amounts of cyanide still left in the gold. The base metal under the gold can be composed of a combination of silver, nickel , aluminum, and or other various metals that will generally oxidize with the natural acids and sulfur that your body produces. These oxides are very harmful to your body and your healing piercing.

Another great concern of the piercing gun is that, because the gun forces the stud through the tissue it can cause a lot of trauma to the area being pierced, if the gun is used in the cartilage

of the ear it can actually fracture the cartilage, (fractured cartilage does not regrow). This tearing and pressure can cause a obvious amount of pain.

In Canada it is against the suggested health guidelines to use a piercing gun on anything but earlobes, even this is not stopping people from harming the consumer, all they are concerned about is the good old mighty dollar (not your health).

THE NEEDLE:

As you will soon find out that there is a un-comparable difference between the piercing gun and the needle. First off if you are going to a professional body piercing studio* **all invasive implements are 100% sterile** and **all hard surfaces are disinfected with a high level disinfectant between each customer.**

You will never find a piercing gun in use in a professional body piercing studio* , if you do then run as fast as your little legs will carry you!!!!

I find most people are more afraid to get pierced by the needle rather than the gun, most people think the gun would hurt less, this is totally wrong. Using the surgical needle hurts a lot less for a few reasons :

- (1) the surgical needle is a lot sharper than the back of a piercing stud.
- (2) The surgical needle goes through in one fluid motion, not a fast jam through the tissue.
- (3) The surgical needle works in a way that it creates minimal pressure, your body does not see this as a threat and will try to heal it rather than push it out.
- (4) The trauma to the actual area being pierced is extremely minimal.

With getting pierced with the needle you have extremely high odds of the piercing healing. With the gun on the other hand, the odds of having the piercing working out at all are very small.

I am more than confident if you go to a professional piercing studio for your piercing needs you will be impressed and happy with the experience. If you have ever been pierced by any one with a gun you have a great opportunity to compare, and I'm sure you will agree. If you have never been pierced with a piercing gun, great, don't start now.

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