POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Ear Piercing for Earrings

Clean your ears twice daily with a cotton ball moistened with hydrogen peroxide and gently swab around the piercings on the back and front of your ear. Move the earrings side to side gently so you can get as close to the actual piercing as possible. This may hurt at first when the piercing is brand new. However, it will prevent germs from getting in this new opening before it heals, and will go a long way towards preventing infection.

A few times a day, turn your earrings at least one full turn forward and backward. If you don't, the skin may stick to the earrings and potentially even grow over them given enough time. Make a point of doing this at least twice a day. If you do it more often (playing with your new piercing), that's fine. Turning them more is better than turning them less.

Make sure the earring and its backing are not snug or tight against the skin. If it is, loosen them.

Be sure to leave your studs in for at least six weeks. If your piercing is having trouble healing - bleeding, crusting (make sure this is clear scabbing fluid and not pus), still painful, etc. - leave your studs in longer and continue to clean the piercings frequently. If your ears are healing well, you can remove the earrings after six weeks. However, continue wearing earrings most days and stick with studs for next 6 months. Make sure the studs are hypoallergenic. After 6-12 months, it should be fine to wear any dangling earrings or non-hypoallergenic ones.

Be aware that once you remove your studs, if you don't wear earrings for awhile, the holes can still close up. Depending on how often you wear earrings, they can take months or even years to completely heal to the point where the holes become "permanent". Don't ever try to force an earring through your ear. If it hurts when trying to insert earrings or if your ear turns bright red or bleeds, stop trying to put the earrings in. The holes have probably closed up and you will need to get them re-pierced.

Be aware that while your piercings are new, the holes are (slightly) larger than they will be after healing. Do NOT wear small backings on your earrings as they can actually go into the piercing itself and become stuck in your earlobe.

If your ears ever become very red/sore and begin leaking any pus, they have become infected. Remove your earrings and see a doctor. You will need to let the ear heal prior to re-piercing your ears.

IF ear tubes have also been placed...
Though we occasionally perform ear piercings at same time as ear tube placement for chronic ear infections, be aware that with middle ear infections, pus will drain out the ear and potentially over/around the ear piercings. This is not a great situation and treatment for the ear infection needs to occur as soon as possible to prevent the ear piercing from getting infected as well.