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THE RISKS OF ORAL PIERCINGS

Can piercings in the oral cavity cause inflammation and infection?

The inflammation in the pierced area is immediate and there is a risk of infection if the materials are not properly sterilized, increasing the risk for the transmission of diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, HIV, etc. Infections can also be caused by the accumulation of bacterial plaque in the region where the piercing was placed, which is often difficult to keep clean.

What can be the consequences in terms of mouth function?

Many changes and several oral problems can be caused by the use of piercings: gingival recession, fractures or dental wear can occur due to friction and contact with the piercing and, in some cases, it can even lead to tooth loss.

Phonetics may also be altered, with oral piercings making it difficult to pronounce some sounds. Difficulties in chewing, caused by the presence of a foreign body, may also arise.

Can oral piercings cause precancerous lesions?

Various aspects can lead to precancerous lesions and the constituent metals of the piercing alloy, such as chromium, which is considered to be carcinogenic, are one of them. Chronic trauma, when combined with other risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol, may further potentiate this type of injury.

Are allergic reactions also a problem?

There are reports of cases of allergy to the materials from which piercings are made of, especially to metals like nickel. The enlargement of the perforated area may also be a consequence of this allergic reaction.

Can this type of piercing cause heart problems?

As a consequence of perforation in the oral cavity, there is the risk of a considerable amount of bacteria entering the bloodstream and forming clusters that attach to the heart valves. This presence of bacteria can, in more susceptible people, cause an infective endocarditis - inflammation of the valves and cardiac tissues.

Should I consult my dentist before making an oral piercing?

Placing piercings in the oral cavity is discouraged by dentists. Still, those who intend to do so should periodically visit their doctor for a better follow-up.