

Role of IV Cannula in Ear Piercing: Our Experience

Sanjay Tadikonda¹, Neljo Thomas², Ravi Kumar Chittoria³, Balachandran⁴, Raghav S Moorthy⁵, Bharat Kumar Singh⁶

¹MBBS, Junior resident, Department of surgery posted in plastic surgery, Jawaharlal Institute of postgraduate medical education and research Pondicherry, India, ²MBBS MS Senior Resident, Department of plastic surgery, Jawaharlal Institute of postgraduate medical education and research institute (JIPMER) Puducherry, India, ³MCh, DNB, MNAMS, FRCS (Edin), DSc, PhD(Plastic Surgery) Professor, Head of IT Wing and Telemedicine, Department of Plastic Surgery & Telemedicine JIPMER, Pondicherry, India, ⁴BDS, Junior Resident, Department of oral and maxillofacial surgery, Mahatma Gandhi post graduate institute of dental science (MGPGI) Pondicherry, India, ⁵Junior Resident, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery, Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of dental sciences (MGPGI) Puducherry, India, ⁶MBBS DNB, Senior Resident, Department of plastic surgery, JIPMER Pondicherry, India

ABSTRACT

Earlobe piercing is a daily OPD room procedure done by a plastic surgeon. Various methods of ear piercing have been described. In this article, we describe a novel method of ear piercing using the IV cannula which can be adapted and performed easily and also cost effective. A 60-year-old female patient underwent an ear piercing using an IV cannula. The ear piercing using this needle will help the patient in getting expert care at a lower cost. The advantages we noticed while using the bone marrow aspiration needle over conventional methods were more easily adapted and replicated. The disadvantage is the considerable trauma with chance of bleeding.

Key words: ear piercing, IV cannula.

INTRODUCTION

The art of body piercing is an age old process for the people in the developed countries. However, nowadays, it has evolved as a part of their fashion process and the ear being the most common body part pierced. [1] Although it is a routinely performed procedure, it is not without complications such as edema, hematoma, infection and keloid formation (2). In this article we are going to discuss about the art of using the novel method of IV cannula in ear piercing.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 60-year-old female patient visited the plastic surgery outpatient department to get an ear piercing. After routine

blood investigations had been done, the procedure was carried out in the department minor operation theatre. After ensuring safety precautions, the chosen site for piercing was marked. Adequate local anesthesia given and marked area was pierced with the 18G Green IV cannula (figure1). Once the piercing done and homeostasis attained, a gold stud was introduced through the tract with the help of the needle as a tract. The same procedure was repeated on the opposite side.

RESULTS

The ear lobe repair was done with assistance of IV cannula and was found to be useful as the procedure was done in a cost effective way and was less painful with minimal trauma.

Address for correspondence:

Sanjay Tadikonda, MBBS, Junior resident, Department of surgery posted in plastic surgery, Jawaharlal Institute of postgraduate medical education and research Pondicherry, India.

DOI: 10.33309/2639-8605.040104

© 2022 The Author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license.

DISCUSSION

Various other methods of ear lobe piercing have been described. The wire technique which necessitates serial dilatation of the tract until the suitably sized ear stud can be placed is a painful process. Piercing guns used very commonly among jewelers did not gain much acceptance among doctors due to the higher incidence of infection. [3] The most common technique used is the railroading method, wherein an 18-gauge needle is railroaded over a 26-gauge needle over which the Tip of the earring is guided through. A newer method of ear lobe piercing was described by Lamba and Gupta, in which an 18-gauge BD Insyte-W intravenous catheter was used for piercing. The CO₂ laser has been used for ear piercing by Chang *et al.* in 2010. [3, 4]

The procedure can be carried out with topical local anesthesia combined with various pre-cooling methods used in conventional laser therapy such as cold gel application and cryospray application. This avoids the need for an injection before the procedure and can be useful in children.

However, the fact that the needle, having a much larger diameter than the other studs, showed the same amount of damage suggests that the best results can be expected from a sharp piercing instrument with a relatively small diameter (5). IV cannula is a simpler instrument that can be carried easily, cost effective, less painful, with minimal trauma and bleeding. It is helpful for the patients wearing large studs which is common in Indian women. It doesn't require serial dilation to pass the large studs. The drawbacks are minimal trauma and bleeding.



Figure : IV cannula assisted ear piercing

CONCLUSION

In this study, we found out that IV cannula is useful in ear piercing as simple, easily replicable technique of ear piercing.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

DECLARATIONS

Authors' contributions

All authors made contributions to the article Availability of data and materials

Not applicable.

Financial support and sponsorship none.

Consent for publication Not applicable

REFERENCES

1. Adigun IA, Aderibigbe AB. Earlobe keloids: Emerging cosmetic complication of ear-piercing. *Nig Q J Hosp Med.* 2010; 20:97–100. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
2. Hendricks WM. Complications of ear piercing: treatment and prevention. *Cutis.* 1991 Nov; 48(5):386-94. PMID: 1764962. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
3. Lamba S, Gupta AK. A novel technique for piercing of ear lobule suited to Indian subcontinent. *Indian J Plast Surg.* 2013;46:594. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
4. Chang YT, Wu JL, Chao JC, Lin CY. The alternative ear-piercing technique by using superpulsed carbon dioxide laser: A comparative study with spring-loaded gun. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2012; 269:339–43. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
5. Van Wijk MP, Kummer JA, Kon M. Ear piercing techniques and their effect on cartilage, a histologic study. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg.* 2008; 61(Suppl 1):S104–9. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

How to cite this article: Tadikonda S, Thomas N, Chittoria R K, Balachandran, Moorthy R S, Singh B K. Role of IV Cannula in Ear Piercing: Our Experience. *Asclepius Med Res Rev* 2022;4(1):18-19.

DOI: 10.33309/2639-8605.040104