

# Role of IV Cannula in Ear Piercing: Our Experience

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## 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.

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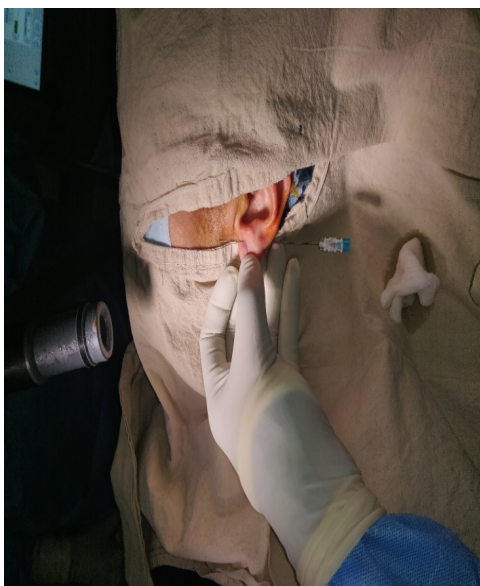
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## DISCUSSION

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 Insite-W intravenous catheter was used for piercing. The CO<sub>2</sub> 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

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