

A novel technique for piercing of ear lobule suited to Indian subcontinent

Sir,

We read with interest the Letters to Editor 'A novel technique for piercing of ear lobule suited to Indian subcontinent'.^[1] It has been rightly pointed out by the authors that the traditional methods of ear piercing using wire involved two stages. Wire technique requires dilatation of tract or hole, which is a painful process, before a proper size ear stud can be put. Furthermore, piercing gun used by jewellers didn't gain much acceptance among the professionals as they believed it makes ear prone for infection. Over the years, we also shared similar beliefs. We were initially using the rail road technique where in a 26 G needle was used to administer local anaesthesia and the same needle was then brought out posteriorly. Then, an

18 G needle was rail roaded over it from posterior to anterior withdrawing the previous needle. Now, the ear stud was guided along the tip of the needle, which was slowly withdrawn backwards. However, we shifted to this technique of using the intravenous (IV) cannula after reading the article by van Wijk *et al.*^[2] in Journal of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery in 2008 'Ear piercing techniques and their effects on cartilage, a histologic study' and have been following this technique since then with good results. The only difference is the cannula size mentioned by van Wijk *et al.* was 16 G, where as we commonly use 18 G. Furthermore, size of Insyte depends on the size of ear stud and ear lobule. 18 G BD Insyte-W IV catheter's (Becton Dickinson Infusion Therapy Systems Inc., Sandy, Utah, USA) outer diameter is 1.3 and inner 0.94-1.02 mm, whereas 16 G outer diameter is 1.7 and inner 1.32-1.40 mm. In our Institute, we always prefer gold ear stud not wire or ring to maintain a proper size hole, which will not require dilatation. We recommend only gold stud after ear piercing because they are less reactive in comparison to artificial jewellery. We also feel that this method is good for every continent not only the Indian subcontinent as piercing is gaining popularity globally and the technique is easy and single staged.

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