

*Is it  
worth  
it?*

Piercing — like tattooing — is just one of today's popular forms of "body art" and self-expression. Piercing may seem daring, cool and totally safe because some celebrities use body piercing to flaunt their particular style or attitude. Hip fashion magazines and videos will tout it — that is until it's no longer deemed the "in thing" and something else comes along to replace it.

However, piercing the tongue, lips, cheeks, or the uvula (the tiny tissue that hangs at the back of the throat), is not as safe as some would have you believe. That's because the mouth's moist environment — home to huge amounts of breeding bacteria—is an ideal place for infection.

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GETTING A PIERCING — OR IF YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE OR MORE — THERE ARE SOME HEALTH RISKS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT.



# ORAL PIERCING

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