Policy on Intraoral/Perioral Piercing and Oral Jewelry/Accessories

Review Council
Council on Clinical Affairs
Latest Revision
2016

Purpose
The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes the importance of educating the public and health professionals on the health implications of intraoral/perioral piercings and oral jewelry/accessories.

Methods
This policy was originally developed by the Council on Clinical Affairs and adopted in 2000. This document is a revision of the previous version, revised in 2011. The update included a new review of current dental and medical literature, including a search of the PubMed®/MEDLINE and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials electronic databases through September, 2015 with the terms: oral jewelry, body piercing, and oral piercing paired with dental and oral piercing; fields: all; limits: within the last 10 years, humans, English, birth through age 99. Four hundred eighty-one articles matched these criteria. Because of so many papers identified through electronic searches, alternate strategies such as appraisal of references from recent evidence-based reviews, controlled clinical trials, and meta-analysis and hand searches were performed. This strategy yielded 85 manuscripts which were evaluated further by abstract. Papers for review were chosen from this list and from the references within selected articles.

Background
The use of intraoral jewelry and piercings of oral and perioral tissues have been gaining popularity among adolescents and young adults. Intraoral jewelry or other oral accessories may lead to increased plaque levels, gingival inflammation and/or recession, caries, diminished articulation, and metal allergy.1-5 Oral piercings involving the tongue, lips, cheeks, and uvula have been associated with pathological conditions such as appraisal of references from recent evidence-based reviews, controlled clinical trials, and meta-analysis and hand searches were performed. This strategy yielded 85 manuscripts which were evaluated further by abstract. Papers for review were chosen from this list and from the references within selected articles.

Policy statement
The AAPD strongly opposes the practice of piercing intraoral and perioral tissues and use of jewelry on intraoral and perioral tissues due to the potential for pathological conditions and sequelae associated with these practices.

References

ABBREVIATION
AAPD: American Academy Pediatric Dentistry.