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El Bitar T. THE EFFECT OF PIERCINGS ON THE ORAL CAVITY Supervisor adviser: Ph.D., M.D., prof. Malkovets O. G.

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Different forms of body modification, including piercings, have been performed in almost every society throughout history, starting from 5000 years ago. Body modification helped distinguish and identify communities which separated individuals into groups in a religious and traditional aspect. Body piercing signified bravery and masculinity, therefore soldiers frequently pierced themselves to display their virility. However, the significance of piercings changed drastically after the 1980s, specifically by the young adults who pierce themselves in order to create an expression of individuality. Therefore, piercings are now mainly worn by individuals in a fashion perspective, especially in the labiomental groove and tongue regions.

Disregarding the fact that piercings induce numerous issues related with the oral cavity, the popularity of piercings continues to increase rapidly. Oral piercing jewelries are composed from non-toxic metals, for example, stainless steel, titanium and gold. Even though the form of metal does not cause harm, nevertheless piercings can provoke orodental trauma, gingival recession, and a high risk of attaining an infection in the oral cavity which will lead to inflammation and atrocious pain.

The goal of this paper is to inform the generation about the complications of getting piercings particularity in the oral region. In conclusion, better understanding of the damage that piercings generate in a scientific point of view will help decrease the reputation of it and prevent individuals from suffering these issues.