Body Piercing & MRI Scans Information

How Do I Know What I Got?

October 2014

If you have body piercing or considering it, it’s important to understand how piercing can impact your body. Here are some facts from the professionals. Tory Hawkes

“The interaction between an implant and the static magnetic field of a MRI system includes attraction or deflection, and torque. The effect on ferromagnetic materials exposed to static magnetic fields can range from significant projectile motion to modifications in the orientation of the object.” The RF (radio frequency) electromagnetic fields can cause a temperature increase in the object, leading to burns of the surrounding tissues. This occurs when the anatomical area that contains the object is exposed to the fields from the transmitting RF coil. Multiple 180-degrees RF pulses can produce high levels of RF energy deposition in the body. As the field strength of the MR system increases, the RF power deposits in the body increases. The potential for heating is due to the type of metal, and to the RF fields being concentrated at the area.” Dr. Jack Ward

“For pierced individuals wearing body jewelry made from titanium, titanium alloys and surgical implant-grade 316L SS, body jewelry removal for an MRI scan should not be an issue of contention unless the jewelry is directly in the area to be examined”. Dr. Jack Ward

Quoted Directly From the Association of Professional Piercers 9/27/2014

“Most ear piercing studs are not made of materials certified by the FDA or ASTM as safe for long term implant in the human body. Even when coated in non-toxic gold plating, materials from underlying alloys can leach into human tissue through corrosion, scratches and surface defects, causing cytotoxicity and allergic reactions. Since manufacturing a durable corrosion–and defect-free coating for such studs is extremely difficult, medical literature considers only implant grade (ASTM F138) steel and titanium (ASTM F67 and F136) to be appropriate for piercing stud composition. Studs make of any other materials, including non-implant grade steel (steel not batch certified as ASTM F138), should not be used, regardless of the presence of surface plating.”

Tory Hawkes, BS, Clinical Massage Therapist

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