



June 6, 2020

KELOID INSIDER

Keloid Insider is a regular newsletter published and distributed by Dr. Tirgan. Various keloid-related topics are discussed in straightforward language.

Ear Keloids

The ear is a common location for the development of keloids. Ear piercing is by far the most common triggering factor for ear keloids development. Other forms of injury to the ears, such as surgery or unfortunate incidences of burns in patients who are genetically predisposed to keloid disorder, may also lead to the formation of ear keloids.

All ear keloids start as a small bump on the ear, then gradually grow. Although all keloids can be surgically removed, the injury and wounding of the skin during surgery - and the abnormal wound healing process - will often result in regrowth of the keloid and frequently lead to the formation of much larger keloids. Indeed, keloid removal surgery is the only risk factor for development of very large and massive ear keloids. Besides worsening of the keloid, needless to say, surgery can also result in loss of ear tissue and permanent disfigurement of the ear.

Cryotherapy is the best method for treatment of ear keloids. With rare exceptions, almost all ear keloids can be removed with cryotherapy. The treatment is given once every 6–8 weeks until the keloid is completely removed.

My patient depicted below is a good example of the results that can be achieved with cryotherapy. The patient was a 26-year-old female who came to see me in July 2016 with very large and massive ear keloids, as is shown below. She had pierced her ears eight years earlier, and within a few months of piercing, keloids started to develop on both ears. Over the next few years, she underwent several surgeries to remove her keloids, had multiple steroid injections, and even radiation therapy; but each time, the keloids regrew and became much bigger. The additional radiation did not prevent keloid regrowth.

I started treating her keloids—segment by segment—with cryotherapy. It took us time and several treatments; however, we were able to bring this condition under control.

The images below demonstrate the results that we were able to achieve.



The outcome for the right ear was excellent: it now looks perfect. The right ear, which was covered by a massive keloid, looked significantly better, yet it still contained some keloid tissue treated during the last visit. Prior surgeries had resulted in loss of cartilage and surrounding normal soft tissue in the right ear.

To learn more about cryotherapy, and other non-surgical treatment methods, please visit <https://www.keloid212.com/>.

You can also email your questions directly to me at DrTirgan@gmail.com. I will post my responses to common questions in the next issue of *Keloid Insider*.

Prior issues of Keloid Insider, can be found at <https://www.keloidinsider.com>.

Be well.

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