

HOW TO AVOID INFECTION AT THE HAIRDRESSERS

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TISCANLABS HEALTH GUIDE

Infection can occur during
hairdressing procedures.

Items such as razors, scissors, combs, clippers and hairpins can accidentally penetrate the skin. Blood and body fluids do not have to be visible on instruments, equipment or working surfaces for infection to be transmitted. Both clients and operators are at risk. However, the risk of getting HIV from hair or nail salons is very low, there are several reasons for the very low risk; for transmission to occur, a person with the virus would have to contaminate the razor with his blood, and then you would have to get cut with the same razor soon thereafter. Second, the virus itself does not survive long in the environment. Soon after the body fluid containing HIV dries, the virus is no longer infectious. That said, the risk of infection at a barbershop is probably not zero. There is good evidence that razors, nail files, barber's

scissors, tattoo needles, and body piercing instruments are risk factors for transmitting hepatitis. Other research shows that hepatitis B can survive outside the body for seven days or more on chairs, headrests, workbenches, instruments and tools."

The best precaution is to observe the hygiene practices in the salons/barber shops you visit: Ensure that they are adequate enough; i.e. the use of disposable instruments, wearing of gloves, proper hand washing, and use of appropriate sterilization techniques."

Please note that this health advice tip is purely advisory and should not replace advice from your medical practitioner.

