

Health | October 17, 2016 | By Korin Miller

Beyoncé's Earlobe Ripped In The Middle Of A Show, But She Kept On Singing

Ouch. Here's what to do if this injury happens to you.



Beyoncé is known for her ability to keep her composure in any situation. At a concert on Saturday, the powerhouse singer showed just why she's earned that rep. During her set at Brooklyn's Barclays Center during the Tidal X: 1015 charity concert, the 35-year-old singer's earring seemed to get accidentally torn from her ear, ripping her earlobe in the process. She reached up and touched it at one point during her performance of the song "Haunted," but kept on singing, unfazed, even though she was *bleeding*.

Fans went nuts on Twitter. “#Beyonce ripped her earlobe off and kept performing like a bawse! Meanwhile, I almost called out of work bc I didn't want to wear a bra,” said one. “Talk about blood, sweat, and tears,” said another.

Ripping your earlobe sounds like an intense and slightly terrifying injury, but New York City dermatologist Doris Day, M.D., author of the upcoming book *Skinfluence*, tells SELF that she sees this kind of thing a lot—and it's usually not hard to fix. “Many dermatologists do earlobe repairs every day,” she says. Sounds like Bey's not the only one to deal with this kind of accessory-induced pain. Check out the video of her discovering her injury, plus her cool-as-a-cucumber recovery, below.

This kind of injury is “extremely common,” Daniel Maman, M.D., of 740 Park Plastic Surgery, tells SELF. The culprit is often oversized earrings that can stretch out a woman's ears, get caught on something and rip the earlobe, or get pulled by a child. However, Maman says it's rare for a woman's earlobe to rip without it being stretched out from wearing heavy earrings first. “Then, the hole is only held together by a thin bridge, and that tears,” he explains.

Jacob D. Steiger, M.D., a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Boca Raton, Florida, tells SELF that a lot of people don't realize it's possible to fix this issue. “Once they learn that there is a relatively easy solution, they are excited to be able to wear earrings comfortably again,” he says. Earlobe repairs are technically sensitive, Day says, meaning a doctor needs to do a good job with it or a patient can end up with wonky-looking lobes.

The treatment is often different depending on how severe the injury is, Gary Goldenberg, M.D., medical director of the Dermatology Faculty Practice at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, tells SELF. A doctor may be able to use fillers like Juvederm or Restylane to repair earlobes that are stretched enough to seem “down-turned,” but aren't severely elongated, he says.

However, if your earring holes are really stretched out or ripped, your doctor will need to cut out the skin edges and sew the two freshly-cut edges together. “You can't sew it together without cutting out the skin edges,” Maman says. “It would be like sewing your hand to your belly—it wouldn't ever heal.” By creating a fresh cut, a doctor makes raw edges that will properly seal together during the healing process. Repairing gauges (earrings that create oversized holes in the ear) is a little bit more complicated depending on the size of the gauge, Steiger says, but it's also possible to fix them.

Luckily, no matter the injury, your doctor will give you a local anesthetic injection so you won't feel a thing. “It's painless,” Maman says. He typically will do both ears at the same appointment since, even if only one side is ripped, it's likely that both sides are stretched out to some degree. Earlobe repairs typically take 15 to 20 minutes per ear, Maman says.

Once the surgery is complete, a patient is usually advised to wait a couple of months before getting a new earring hole, and it's usually not made in the exact same spot, Day says. Even though earlobes typically heal within one to two weeks, it's best to hold off on re-piercing for a bit to avoid putting too much stress on the injury site, Andrew Jacono, M.D., F.A.C.S., director of The New York Center for Facial Plastic & Laser Surgery in New York City, tells SELF.

After that, doctors usually recommend that you modify your earring-wearing behavior, like scaling back how often you wear super-heavy earrings. “Otherwise, it will just reoccur,” Maman says.