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make a difference



The Royal Liverpool
and Broadgreen
University Hospitals
NHS Trust

Patient information

Micro suction

Ear Nose and Throat Speciality

What is micro suction?

This is a procedure to remove wax/debris from your ear/s with suction. It is an alternative to ear syringing or use of instruments to clean your ear/s. This procedure can be done in outpatient clinic and does not need an anaesthetic.

What are the benefits of having micro suction?

The procedure allows the nurse to clean the ear/s under direct vision with the use of a microscope and allow further treatment to your ear/s as needed.

What are the risks of having micro suction?

- Trauma (grazing of the ear canal): This can be avoided if you keep as still as possible during the procedure. Occasional bleeding from the ear canal can take place. You will be informed if this happens and the area will be treated.
- Perforation: There is a very small risk of perforation of the ear drum which would be due to sudden movement during the procedure, so it is very important that you keep as still as possible during the procedure.
- Dizziness: The procedure involves using suction to remove the wax/debris from your ear/s. As this sucks cooler air through the ear canal you may experience dizziness, but it usually goes away quite quickly. We advise you to keep your eyes open and focus on a particular object in your direct vision to encourage normality. Occasionally, this sensation may make you feel sick.

If you find the procedure too uncomfortable, please tell the nurse and he/she will stop immediately

Are there any alternative treatments available?

There are no alternatives as syringing is inappropriate if there is a history of perforated drum or previous surgery i.e. mastoidectomy.

What will happen if I decide not to have treatment?

Your symptoms could stay the same or and may worsen i.e. pain/ dizziness.

What should I expect?

This procedure does not require any anaesthetic or medication, you can resume normal activities straight away i.e. eating, drinking, driving, and work.

If you experience dizziness you will be encouraged to sit in the department until this settle. It usually resolves within a few minutes.

Any further queries regarding the procedure will be answered at your appointment.

As a Department we would not advise the personal use of any wax removing instruments including cotton buds as this may cause trauma, perforation to the drum or wax to be impacted as it get pushed further into the ear canal.

Please seek professional advice and treatment from a health professional.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated

Further information

For information regarding appointments please

Tel: 0151 706 3534

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3534

ENT Nurse Practitioners

Sue Bragan and Helene Bryant/Christine Burton

Tel: 0151 706 2290

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2290

Author: Ear, Nose and Throat Directorate

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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