

PATIENT INFORMATION: MICROSUCTION

PURPOSE

Microsuction is the use of vacuum wax clearance under the direct vision of a microscope, it is safer and less uncomfortable than syringing. We use microsuction to remove wax build up/ infection/debris/ foreign bodies for the ear canal.

Ear wax is a normal secretion and should only be removed if it is interfering with hearing or causing irritation to the ear canal.

PROCESS

Prior to the procedure we ask that you use wax softening drops for at least 48hours. This helps to soften the wax and makes the procedure easier. There are many over the counter products available but we recommend olive oil as a softening agent. (see ear drop installation instructions for further information)

We may use a combination of Micro suction (using a small suction tube and a fine suction end) and Manual clearance (using a small probe / wax hook / forceps) to remove the wax. During the procedure it is important to keep as still as possible whilst the procedure is being done to prevent accidental injury to the ear canal or ear drum. It may be noisy, and you may feel some strange sensations, become dizzy or feel some slight discomfort but if it is painful our specialist nurse will stop immediately.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Microsuction is a safe procedure. Unlike syringing it is carried out under direct vision to avoid damage to the ear drum. There is a very small risk of minor trauma to the ear canal or infection which can cause irritation. Or an ever smaller risk of perforation of the ear drum. These are normally caused by sudden movement during the procedure, so it is very important to stay as still as possible. Some people will feel slightly dizzy afterwards and occasionally tinnitus can be aggravated for a few days afterwards.

AFTER CARE

If you develop pain or a discharge from your ear please come back and see your nurse.

To prevent excess build up of wax you can use wax softening drops regularly. Never use cotton buds, hair clips, or any other objects to clean your ears as this can push the wax further into the canal and cause damage and irritation to the ear.

Occasionally the procedure is not successful and we may not be able to remove all of the problem wax, you may be asked to use some wax softening drops and come back.

COST

The charge for microsuction is \$45