

Ear Micro-Suction Patient information leaflet

For the removal of wax, infection, debris, and foreign bodies in your ears. The practitioner looks at your ear through a microscope and will then use a small suction tube and fine suction end to remove the wax. This can be noisy due to the suction machine; however, it should not be painful. If it is uncomfortable, let the practitioner know and they will stop the procedure. You will be asked to keep still as possible unless asked to move. This is important as movement can cause accidental injury to the ear canal or eardrum if unexpected.

Manual clearance is the removal of wax, infection, debris, or foreign bodies by using probes, hooks and forceps. Again, it is important to keep still throughout the procedure preventing accidental injury to the ear canal or eardrum.

Every procedure carries a potential risk of infection.

Grazing can occur if the ear canal skin is sensitive. There is a small risk of perforation if any sudden movements are made. To avoid this, you should keep as still as possible throughout the procedure. Some people experience dizziness due to the cool air being sucked through the ear canal. This usually goes away quickly. Inform the practitioner and they will stop the procedure until the dizziness has passed. Coughing can occur as the nerve that supplies the throat with the coughing mechanism lies close to the ear canal. Inform the practitioner and they will stop the procedure until it passes. If micro-suction is being performed due to infection the procedure may sometimes be uncomfortable. The practitioner will check you are coping with the procedure throughout.

If you have any concerns or worries, please speak to the practitioner who will be happy to allay your fears.

You should be able to resume to normal activities after the procedure. If you feel dizzy afterwards, we will ask you to sit in the department until it passes, usually within a few minutes.

Please read this leaflet. Share the information with your partner, friend or family member (if you wish) so they can support you.

Ear wax removal via micro suction is considered safer than other methods such as syringing. The procedure will be performed by a qualified trained clinician following guidelines written by The Hearing Lab & The British Society of Audiology. Complications of ear wax removal with micro suction are uncommon; however possible complications, side-effects and material risks inherent in the procedure include but are not limited to incomplete removal of ear wax requiring a return visit (for severely impacted wax), minor bleeding, discomfort, ringing in the ear (tinnitus), perforation of the ear drum and hearing loss.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY DROPS IN YOUR EARS. WE DO NOT WANT THE WAX SOFTENED BEFOREHAND