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# Managing the Earie Canal

## Methods of Cerumen Removal

Rita Chaiken, AuD

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## Learning Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Name the instruments used for cerumen removal.
- Describe various equipment used for irrigation.
- Discuss the protocol for performing suction.

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## Methods of Cerumen Management

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## Methods of Cerumen Management

Instrumentation

Aural Suction or Aspiration

Irrigation

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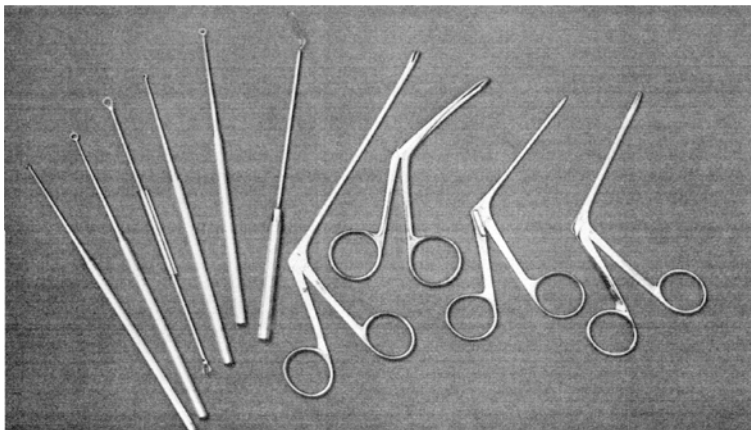
## Instrumentation

Most Widely Used By  
Audiologists

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Instruments include curettes, loops, hooks & forceps



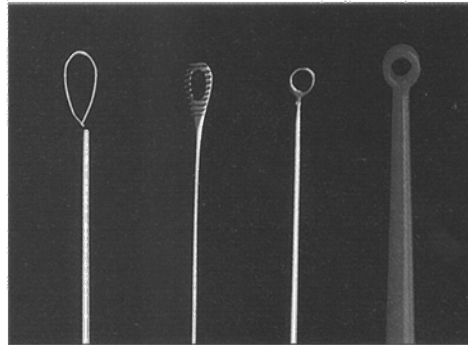
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Loops and curettes are available in various sizes, shapes & materials

- Billeau loop
- Shapleigh curette
- Buck curette
- Disposable curette

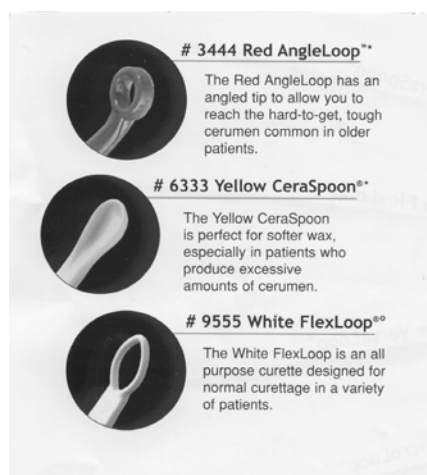


**Figure 1.** Four commonly used types of curette are, from left, the Billeau loop, the Shapleigh curette, the Buck curette, and a disposable curette.

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There are also a variety of disposable curettes and loops



carbon fiber

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## Buck Curettes

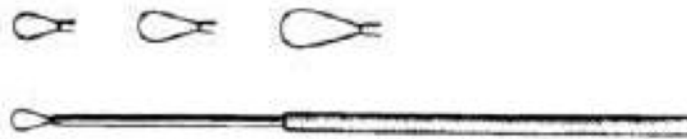


Rod with metal ring at the tip

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## Billeau Loops



Metal rod with oval wire at tip

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## Other Curettes

- Day hooks



- Vorotek Ear Loops



- Shapleigh curettes



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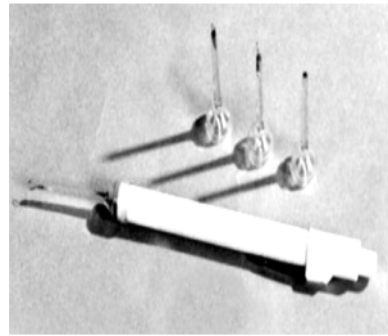
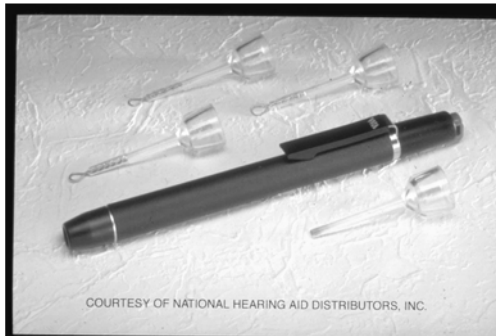
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## Earlights



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## Lighted Currettes



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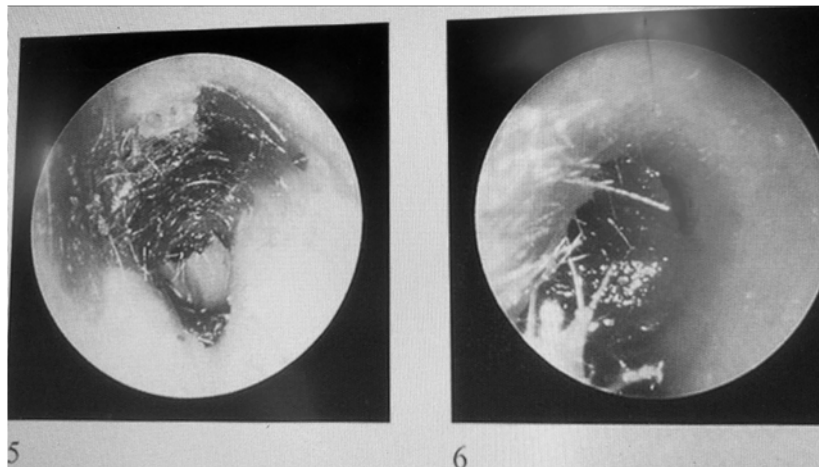
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Some video otoscopes have attachments to perform removal



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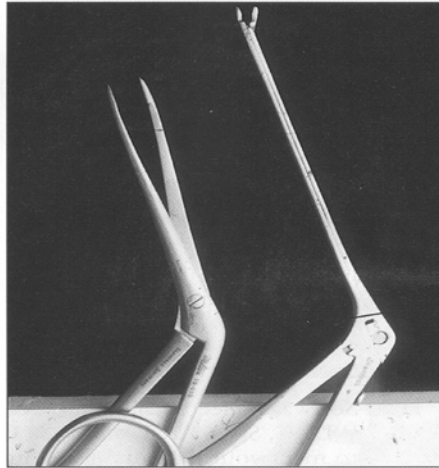
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Forceps differ by their point of articulation

- Hartman
- Alligator



**Figure 2.** Pictured are the Hartman dressing forceps (left) and the alligator style forceps.

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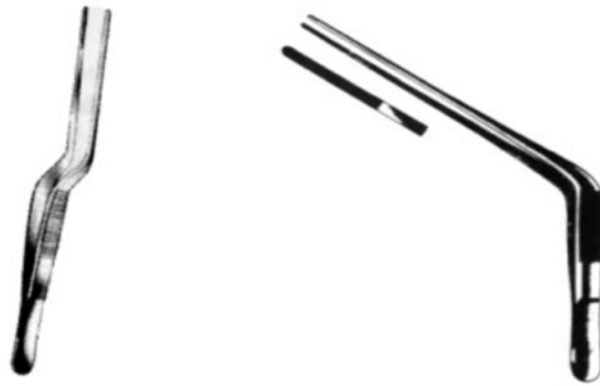


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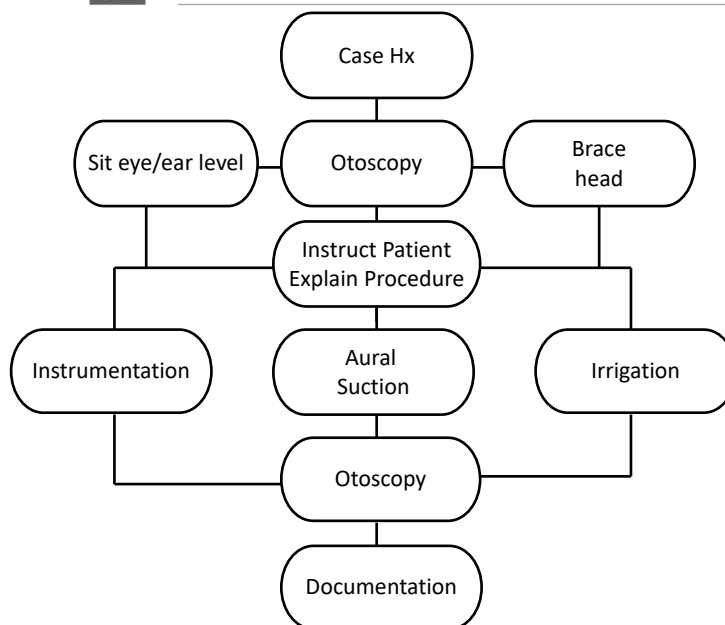
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Lucae bayonet and Wilde forceps resemble tweezers

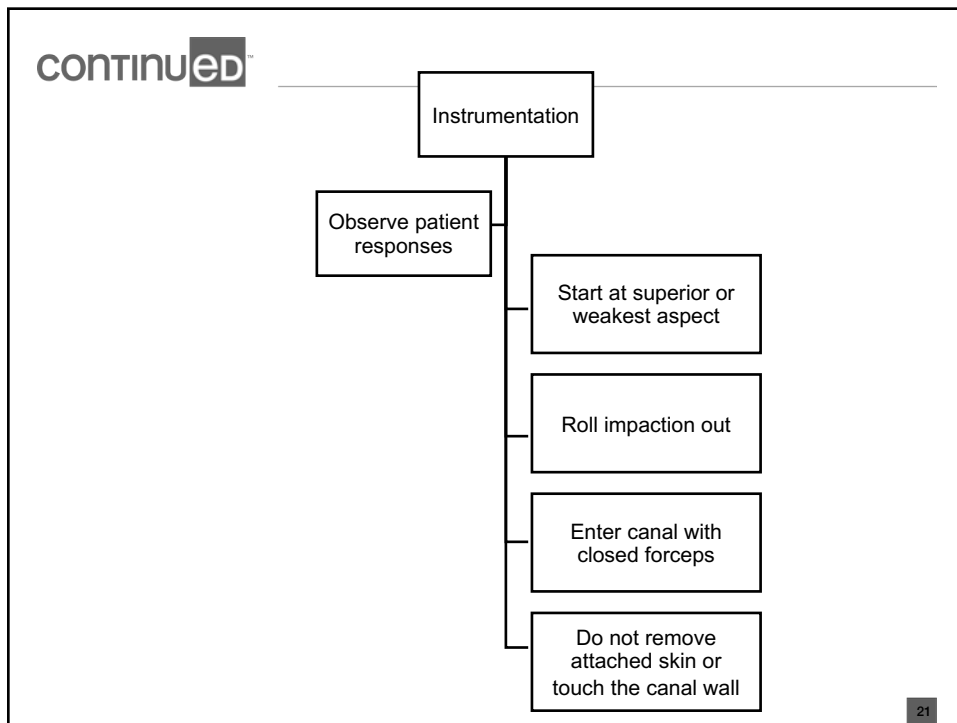


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## Using Forceps



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## Cerumen Management Clip

John Vorrath



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## Suction

- Makes loud sound
- With or without otoscope
- Need good light source
- Contraindicated for some patients

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Suction equipment includes a pump, tubing, tips and collection jar



Gomco



Jedmed

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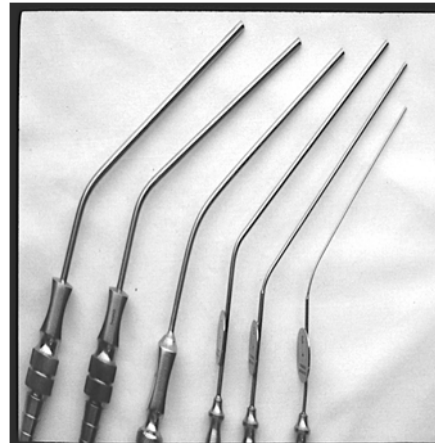
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The suction tip (tube) is attached to pump tubing and inserted into the ear canal

Clean the tips by:

- Suctioning warm water
- Running water through
- Syringing water
- Bathing in ultrasonic cleaner
- Using reamer wire



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Suction Tubes are named for their designers



- Frazier
- Baron
- Ferguson-Frazier

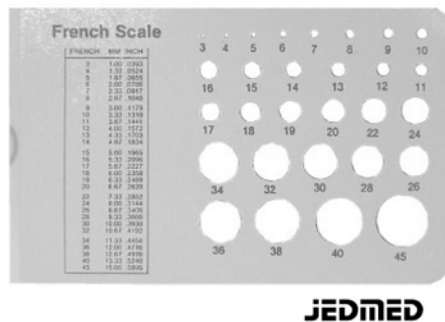
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## Suction tips have different sized lumen

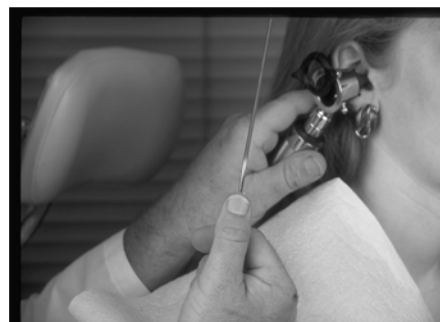


- Smallest size cleans hearing aids
- Smaller tips clog easier
- Larger tips are noisier
- Keep a cup of warm water nearby

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## Cover the bleeder hole in the middle of the tip to enable maximum suction



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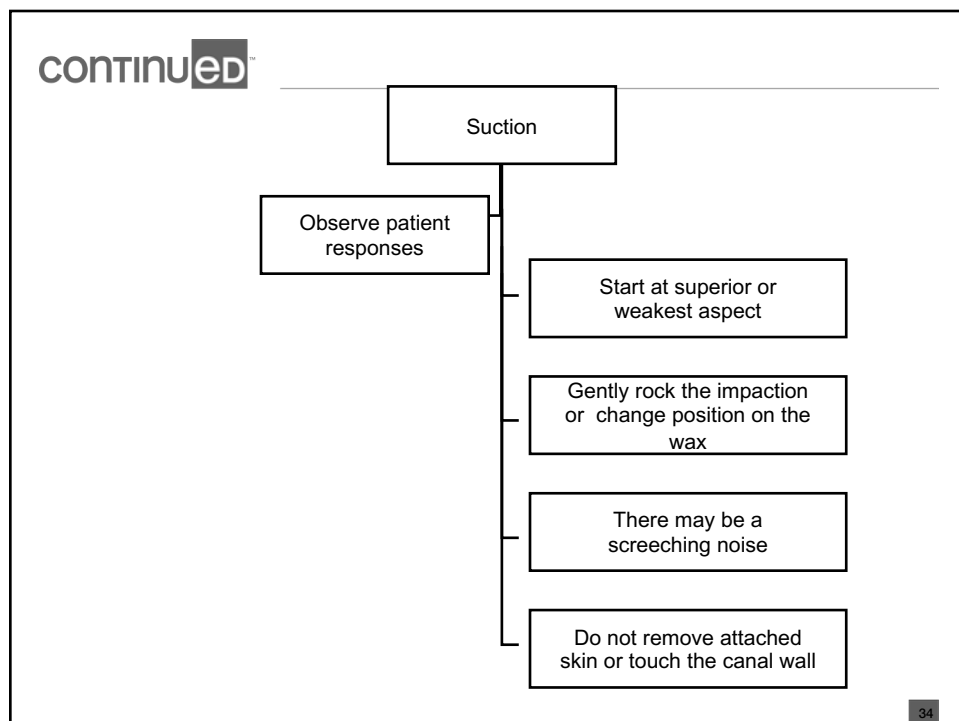
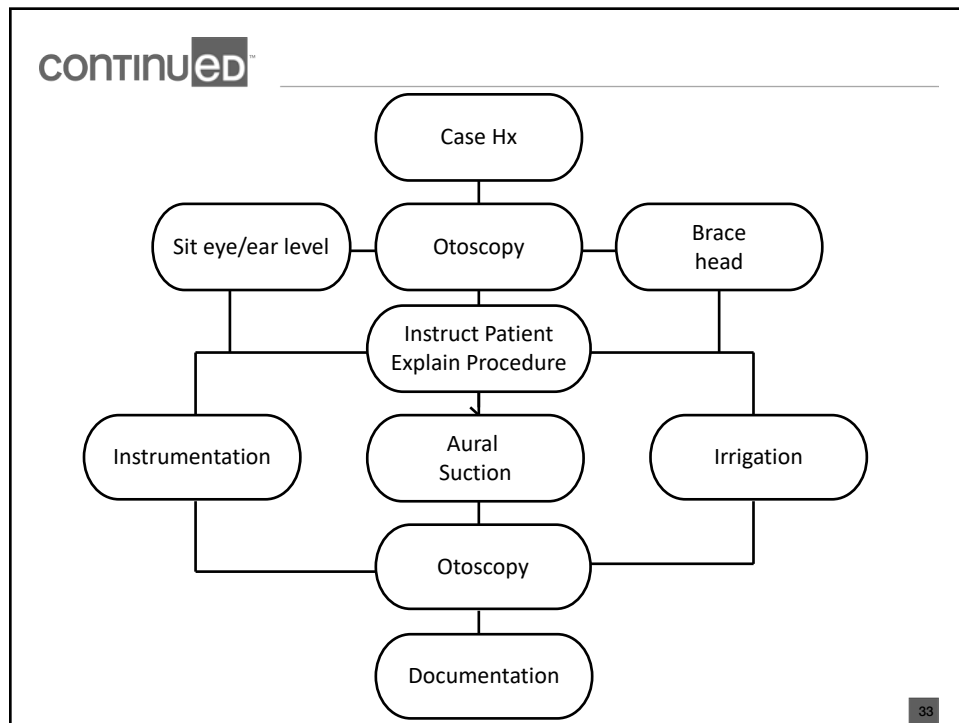
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It's a boy!!



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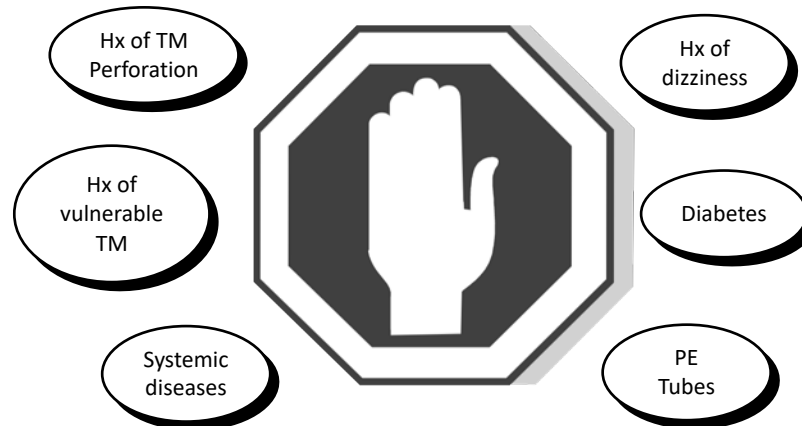
Irrigation



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There are several contraindications to performing irrigation



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Irrigation is commonly used by medical paraprofessionals

Equipment/Materials

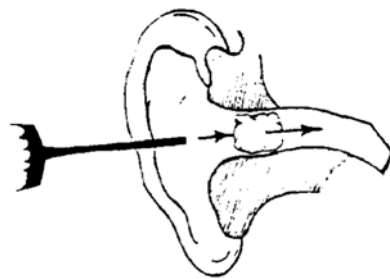
- dental irrigator or hand held syringe
- catch basin
- plastic apron
- towels
- lighting/magnification
- mask



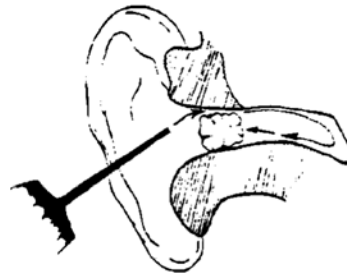
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Do not flush the water directly at the tympanic membrane



INCORRECT



CORRECT

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## Irrigation Protocol 1



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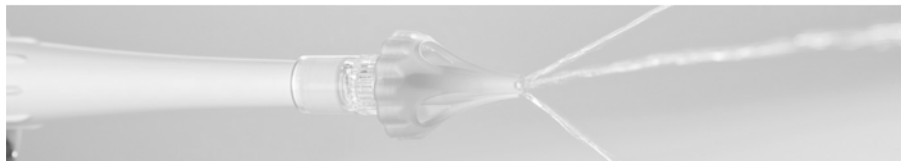
## Irrigation Protocol 2



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### OtoClear® Ear Irrigation Tips & Systems



bionix™

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## Welch Allyn Ear Wash System



- Pressure regulation
- Temperature indicator/control 90°
- Suctioning action
- Portability
- Affordable

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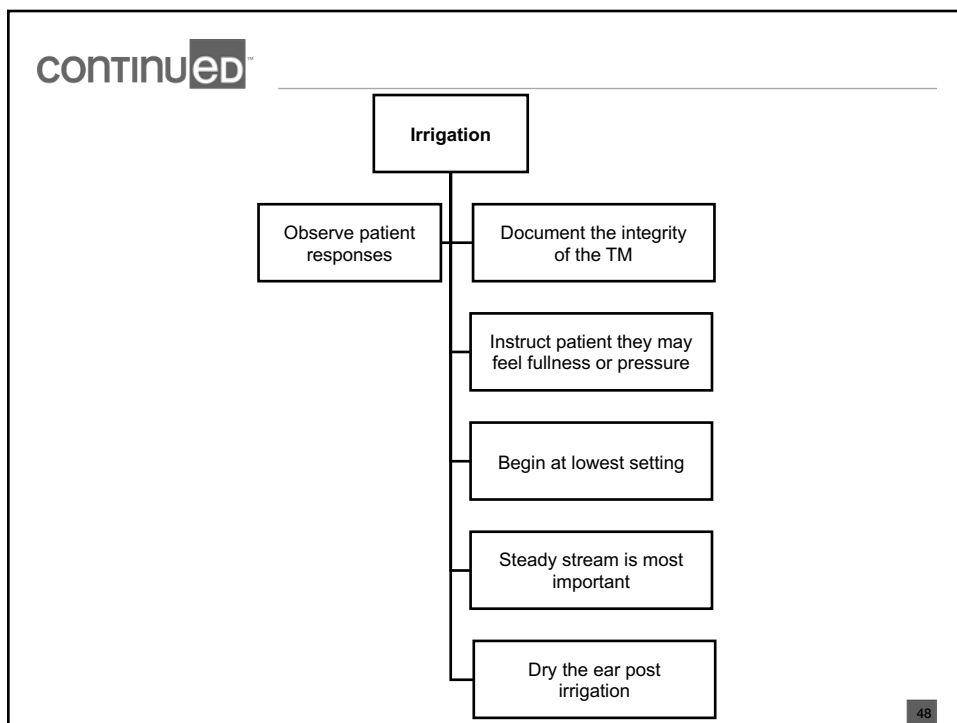
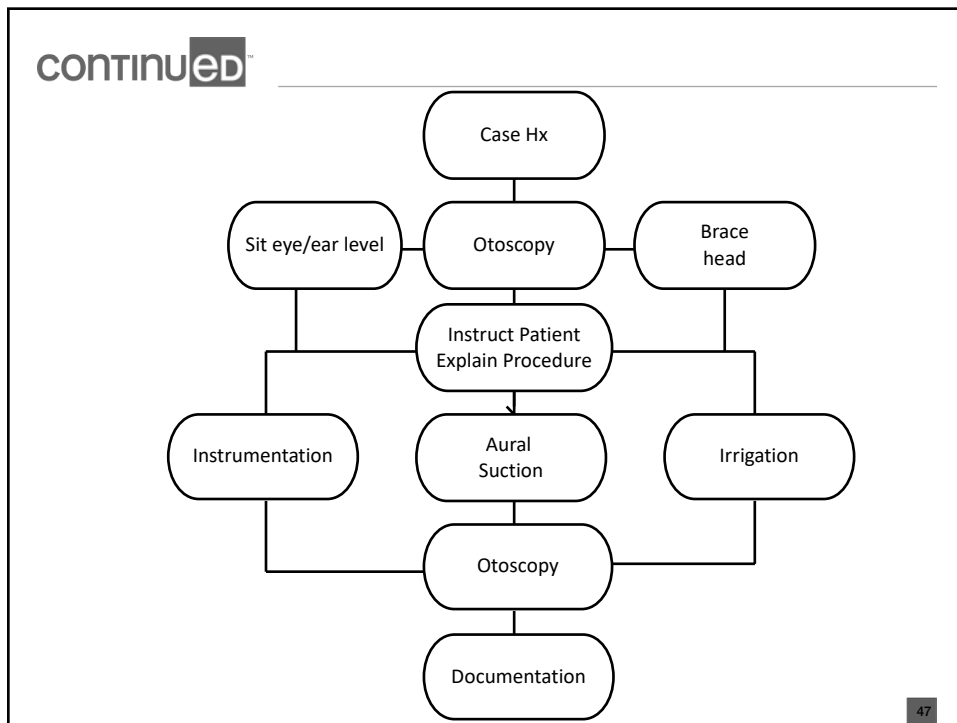
## Earigator



- Designed by otologist
- Regulates temp
- Controls pressure
- LED illumination
- Magnification

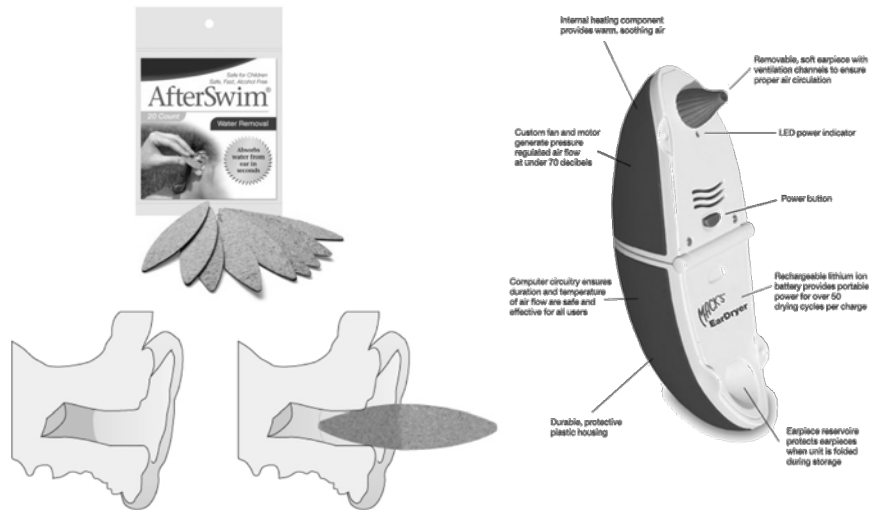
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## Dry the ear after irrigation



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## Ear Dryer



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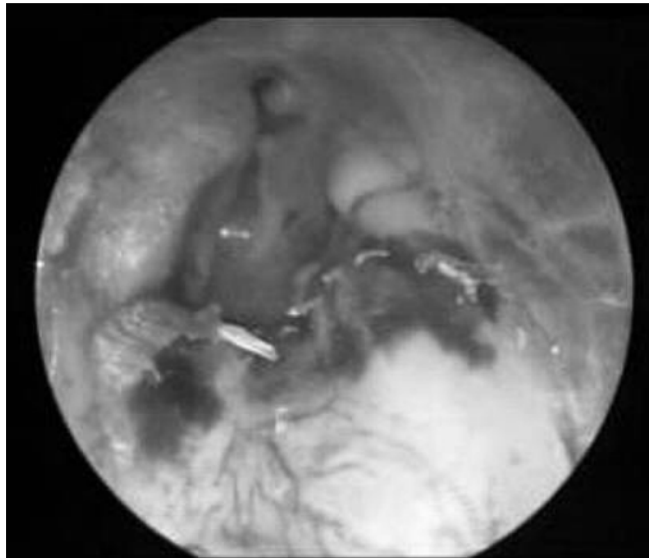
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## Woops! Post Cerumen Management Problems

- Tell the patient if there is trauma
- Stop bleeding with water pressure, saline soaked in cotton ball, or Afrin.

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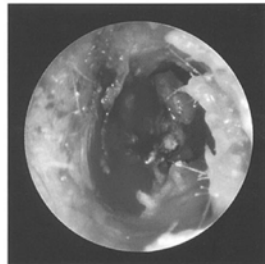
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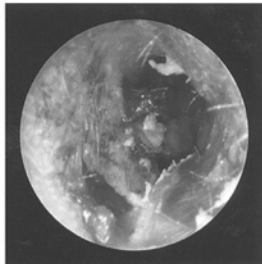
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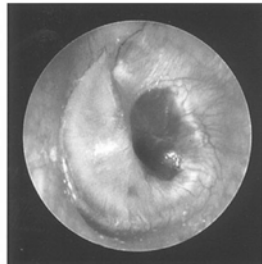
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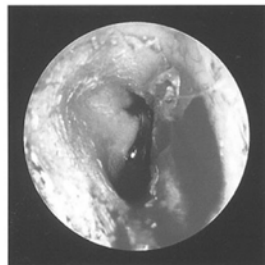
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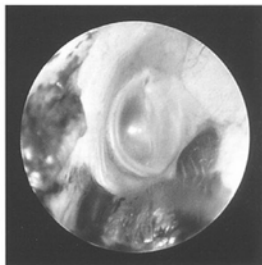
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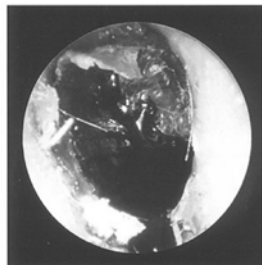
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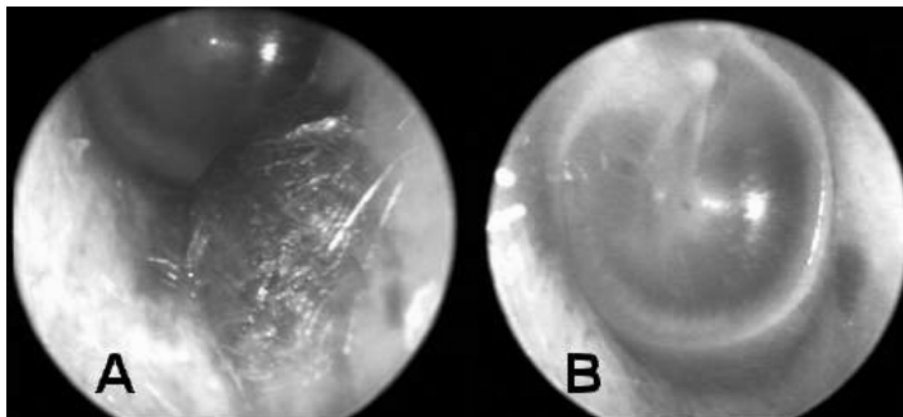
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