



## Foreign bodies in the Ear

### Foreign body removal

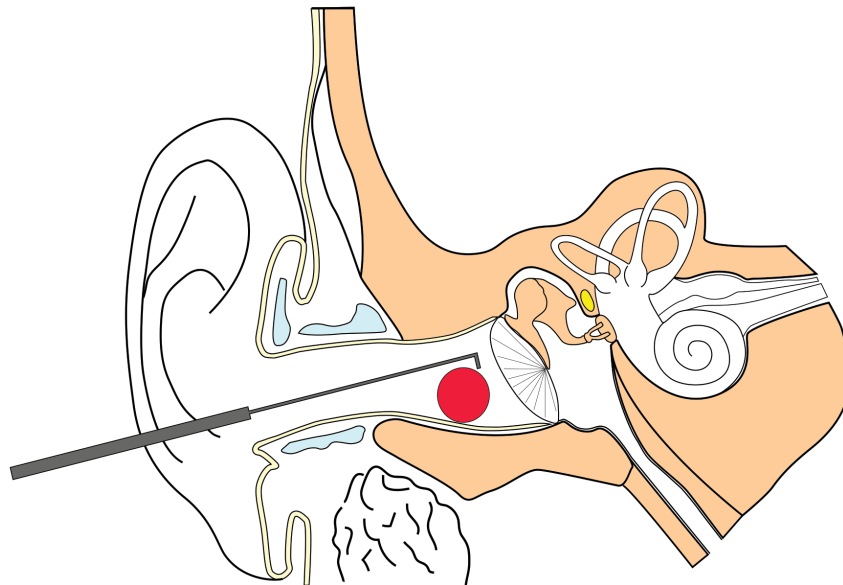
Foreign bodies in the ear are common, especially in children. Removing them is important so that the ear may hear properly and to prevent infection or damage to the ear drum.

There are a number of ways of doing this but there are a number of principles to follow regardless of the technique practiced:

1. Organic foreign bodies such as peas should not be syringed out because they may expand and become trapped
2. The patient must be very still so that accidental damage to the ear drum is not caused. This sometimes means using a general anaesthetic
3. Always take care not to traumatise the canal skin as this will make it bleed and foreign body removal will be much harder

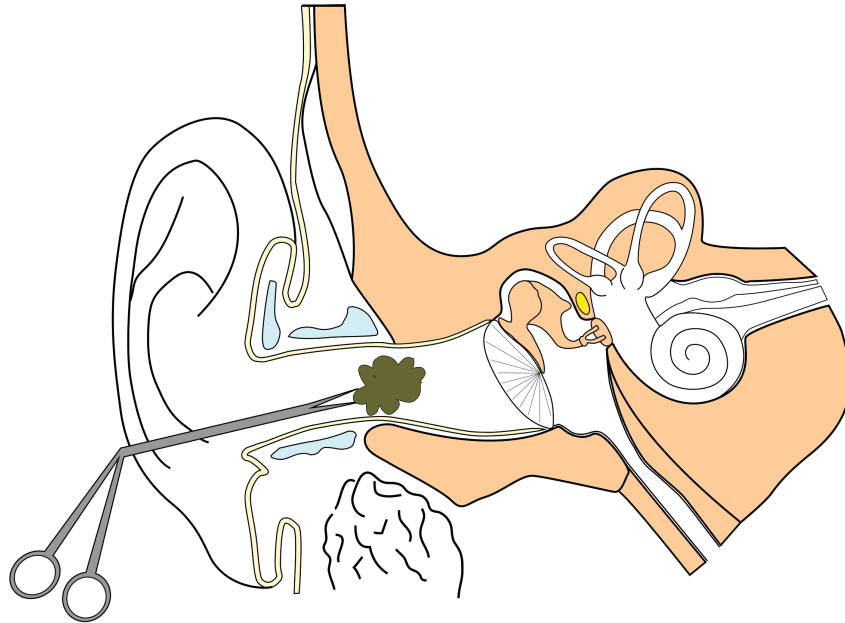
Equipment:

1. Headlight
2. Speculum
3. Wax hook or suction



The diagram shows a spherical foreign body near the ear drum. This can be gently hooked out as shown.

Crocodile forceps can be used to remove some foreign bodies such as paper, cotton wool and other tissues.



Once the foreign body has been removed inspect the ear canal and drum for damage. Trauma to the ear canal usually heals without any problems and no treatment is needed. The patient should keep the ear dry.

Damage to the eardrum will also usually heal and the patient should keep the ear dry until it does.