# Otitis Externa Casualty Clinic Pathway

Department of ENT

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board

Clinical diagnosis of Otitis Externa
History & Examination. Microsuction

Canal Oedematous and stenosed?

YES

Insert Wick
- Gentisone HC ii BD
- R/w in 2-3

Canal Oedematous and stenosed?

If stenosis persists **after second wick**

NO

Disproportionate ear pain? Facial Palsy or

YES

Alternate diagnosis sought
**Urgent senior review**
Patient not suitable for this protocol

NO

Tympanic Membrane visible and intact?
Patient **not** Immunocompromised or

YES

**Simple Otitis Externa:**

1. **Ear Drops**
   - Gentisone HC or Maxitrol- 2 drops, BD, 2 weeks
2. **Analgesia**
   - Co-Codamol 30/500 ii QDS,
   - Ibuprofen 400 mg PO TDS

**Discharge** with Advice

NO

**Complicated Otitis Externa:**

1. **Ear Swab -** MC+S and Fungal stains
2. **Ear Drops** - 2 drops, BD, 2 weeks
   - Ciprofloxacin (Ciloxin eye drops)
   - Or Clotramizole 1% (fungal infection) – continue for two weeks after symptoms clear
2. **Analgesia**
   - Co-Codamol 30/500 ii QDS.

**Cas clinic follow up** (no less than 10

YES

Symptoms

NO

Senior review (SpR/Consultant)

1. **Consider Alternate diagnosis / pathology**
2. **Consider cross sectional imaging**
3. **Patient has attended Cas clinic on third occasion**
4. **No further Cas Clinic appointments**
5. **Ongoing symptoms warrant main clinic referral**

**Refer to Out Patient**

**Complicated Otitis Externa:**

1. **Check ear swab results**
2. **Ear Drops as per sensitivity -** 2 drops, BD, 2 weeks
   - Ciprofloxacin (Ciloxin eye drops)
   - Or Gentisone HC
   - Or Clotramizole 1% (fungal infection)
3. **Discuss or Review with SpR/Consultant**

**Cas clinic follow up** (no less than 10 days)

YES

Symptoms

NO

This protocol does not replace clinical judgement. If in doubt, seek a senior review.