

Who will do it?

The procedure will be carried out by one of our experienced doctors.

When can I have it done?

We offer both daytime and evening appointments. Please call in or contact our reception on (01527) 872163 – don't forget to tell them that this is a private appointment.

Will I need it doing again?

Sometimes it is not possible to remove all the material at the first visit. This is especially so if the wax has become very hard or is close to the eardrum. In this case the doctor will usually suggest a second visit after further softening has been carried out.

Wax can reaccumulate in the ear canal in the future. This is more likely with a high fat diet, if you are elderly, if you have narrow ear canals and if you put cotton buds in your ears. If you are prone to wax blocking your ears then it can be more effective to have regular micro-suction to prevent the formation of hard impacted wax that can be difficult and uncomfortable to remove.

Prices

Removal of wax, debris or foreign material :

| | |
|----------|-----|
| One ear | £40 |
| Two ears | £60 |

This includes a free second visit if it is not possible to achieve a significant clearance during the first visit.

Please note that unfortunately we are unable to offer this service to anyone registered at Churchfields Surgery. For Churchfields' patients we perform micro-suction as an NHS service if clinically necessary.



Private Service

Ear Canal
Micro-Suction

What is Micro-Suction?

This is a procedure to remove wax, debris and foreign objects from the ear canal by using gentle suction and instruments. It is all done under direct vision by looking down a microscope. An anaesthetic is not needed.

What are the benefits of micro-suction?

Syringing has been the traditional way that wax has been removed from ears. This involves forcing water into the ear canal. It has several risks including perforation of the ear drum, pain, dizziness, tinnitus and irritation or infection of the ear canal.

Some of these risks can be reduced by micro-suction which can also be carried out in circumstances where syringing should not be used such as:

- Complications during previous syringing
- Middle ear infection in the last 6 weeks
- Previous major ear surgery
- Grommets
- Perforation of the ear drum
- Swollen ear canal
- Cleft palate

Also, some people just prefer to have micro-suction than to undergo syringing.

Do I need to do anything before having micro-suction?

Please read this leaflet to see if you think micro-suction is suitable for you. If you wish to proceed then you should put 2 drops of olive oil in the relevant ear(s) twice a day for 2 weeks before your appointment. These drops can be bought at most pharmacies.

What should I expect during the procedure?

We will show you the equipment and explain what we are doing.

We will ask you to sit or lie still.

The suction is noisy and can make you feel dizzy.

It can take up to 30 minutes to complete for both ears.

It can be uncomfortable, especially if the wax is firmly stuck to the canal or if your ear is already tender.

At the end of the procedure you will be given a form to confirm what has been carried out and any complications resulting. We suggest that you

take this to your own GP to be entered into your health record.

You can start normal activities straight away afterwards. If you experience dizziness you will be asked to wait until it settles. This usually takes just a few minutes.

What are the risks of micro-suction?

Grazing of the ear canal. Occasionally some pain and bleeding from the skin of the canal can occur. This settles all by itself.

Dizziness. As the suction brings cooler air into the canal you may experience some dizziness and occasionally you may feel nauseous. This usually goes away quite quickly. We advise you to keep your eyes open and focus on a particular object.

Perforation. There is a very small risk of perforation of the ear drum which would be due to sudden movement during the procedure. For this reason we ask that you keep as still as you are able whilst microsuction is being carried out. If you find the procedure too uncomfortable simply tell the doctor.