

## TAKE PROPER CARE OF YOUR EAR, IF YOU WANT TO HEAR!

### 10. Is it dangerous if my child's eardrum ruptures because of an ear infection?

A. A ruptured eardrum may heal if proper treatment is taken. In some cases, if it does not, surgery may be performed to close the hole in the eardrum. A ruptured eardrum can be painful - but for many children, it actually relieves the pain caused by a middle ear infection. That's because the fluid that built up behind the eardrum, which caused the pain, is released through the hole.

### 11. Is it safe to remove ear wax with commercially available ear buds?

A. No, it is not advisable to use any ear bud to clean the ear. Always go to a doctor if you suspect ear wax. Do not insert or put anything into the ear. Do not use any oil, sticks, pins etc. because these can lead to infection in the ear.

### 12. Can I use traditional/herbal remedies in the ear?

A. No. These things may irritate the ear canal and the ear drum



**NO SLAPS OR  
SHARP IN EAR,  
IF YOU WISH TO  
HEAR!!**

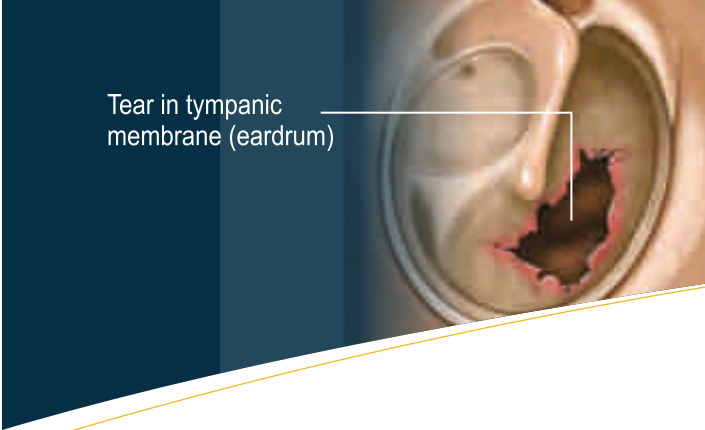


**Ear Discharge :**  
Frequently asked questions  
(FAQs)



**Society for Sound Hearing**  
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Tear in tympanic membrane (eardrum)

## FAQs about discharge from the ear

### 1. What is ear discharge?

A. It is discharge of blood, pus, or fluid from the ear.

### 2. What are the causes of ear discharge?

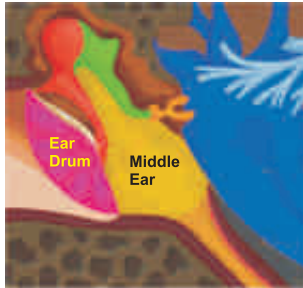
A. The common causes of ear discharge are skin irritations in the ear canal; inflammation or infection of the ear; infection in the middle ear, a ruptured or perforated ear drum.

### 3. What are the causes of bleeding from the ear?

A. Bleeding from the ear may be due to foreign object in the ear canal, injury or cancer. At time severe infection will lead to blood stained discharge.

### 4. What is a middle ear infection?

A. The middle ear is the small part of the ear just inside the eardrum. It can get infected when germs from the



nose and throat are trapped there. It is commonly seen in children.

### 5. What causes an ear infection (otitis media)?

A. An ear infection occurs when there is a collection of fluid behind the ear drum during a cold, allergy or upper respiratory infection and is accompanied with the presence of bacteria or viruses. This causes an inflammation in the middle ear which will give the earache. Severity of otitis media can vary.

### 6. What happens in an ear infection?

A. When someone gets an ear infection, the middle ear fills with fluid. The infection causes fever; pressure and pain in the ear. If there is a discharge from the ear it means the eardrum has ruptured. This is nature's way of releasing the infected fluid. It often leaves a hole in the eardrum.

### 7. How is a middle ear infection diagnosed?

A. Your doctor will talk to you about the symptoms. Then s/he will look into your ears. A special tool with a light lets the doctor see the eardrum and tell whether there is fluid behind it.

### 8. What should I do, if I have ear discharge?

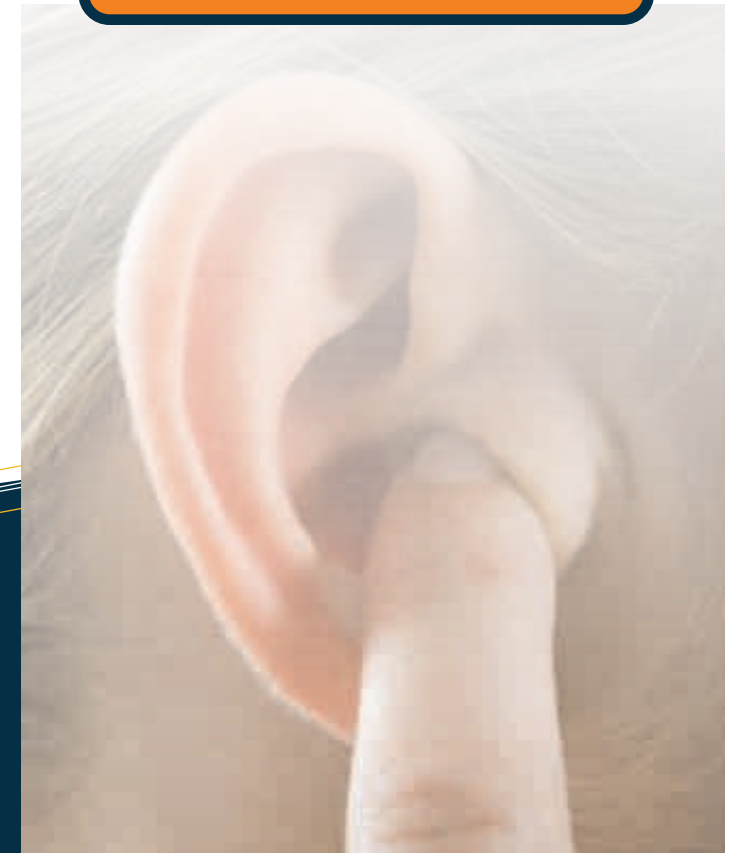
A. Keeping the ear dry is of utmost importance. The ears should be covered during bathing. Soft cotton cloth should be used for keeping the ear dry. Do not put anything inside the ear, not even ear drops without consulting the doctor. Consult the doctor immediately, s/he may prescribe you antibiotic or surgery may be needed.

### 9. How can I prevent ear infections?

A. Most of the ear infections can be prevented by taking good care of our ears. Some of the important things to remember are:

- Not to let dirty water enter the ear
- Not to slap anyone on the ear as it can lead to damage to the ear drum
- Early diagnosis of ear infections by staying vigilant for problems like pain in the ear.
- Not to put anything into the ear such as pencil, matchstick, hair-pin etc.

**Beware! Don't ignore  
Pain in Ear**



**Discharging ear should be taken seriously. It denotes rupture of the eardrum, which if not treated properly at the right time can lead to chronic ear infection and later deafness.**