



Cerumen Management Informed Consent Information

The purpose of this document is to provide written information regarding the risks, benefits and alternatives to the procedure named above. This material serves as a supplement to the discussion you have had with your audiologist. It is important that you fully understand this information, so please read this document thoroughly. If you have any questions regarding the procedure, ask your audiologist prior to signing the consent form. We appreciate you choosing West Valley Hearing Center to meet your needs.

Procedures: Accumulating earwax and resulting cerumen impaction can present clinically important problems, including hearing loss and pain. Yet the condition is very simple to diagnose, and impaction removal is safe, but not without risk.

1. Irrigation/Lavage – This is the easiest and most common way to remove cerumen impactions. Using a syringe or irrigating device/spray, increased pressure flushes the cerumen out. Fluid/liquid will be at body temperature.

2. Curette – This is a more accurate way to remove cerumen impactions. Using a metal or plastic tool, a curette, the audiologist will insert the tool while observing through a head lamp or otoscope and gently remove the wax from the ear(s).

The final step in removing cerumen impaction is patient education. Important points include the following:

- Do not insert foreign objects in the ear, including cotton swabs, bobby pins, paper clips, keys etc.
- Do not use ear candles
- Ears should be cleaned using a washcloth wrapped around a finger
- Cerumenolytic agents may be used, but the softened cerumen must be removed physically
- An audiologist or physician should be contacted in the event of ringing, crackling sounds, or decrease in hearing

Benefits. You may receive the following benefits:

- Improved hearing
- Relief of pain or discomfort

Risks. Before undergoing this procedure, understanding the risks is essential:

- Damage to the external auditory canal from scratching, including bleeding
- Acute otitis externa from improperly drying the ear
- Tympanic membrane (eardrum) perforation
- Otitis media if the eardrum has been previously perforated
- Nausea, vertigo or vomiting

Alternatives.

- You may try using a cerumenolytic agent and irrigate yourself
- See your primary care physician or otolaryngologist for removal

I understand the above risks, benefits and alternatives. I have had the opportunity to have all questions answered and may ask for a copy of this consent sheet.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date