

is thoroughly mopped from your child's ear canal and will advise you to keep your child's ears dry.

- Do not swim, bathe, or shower without swim plugs or cotton wool covered in Vaseline.
- Do not use cotton buds in your child's ears for any reason - apart from the cotton wool drying out the ear canal too much, the cotton bud itself may become detached and lodge itself in your child's ear canal, requiring removal by a qualified practitioner.

If your child has continued problems with excessive wax, it may be beneficial to use 1-2 drops of olive oil each month. This will not prevent wax forming but will make removal easier.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
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Ask 3 Questions



Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille, and other languages upon request.
For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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Ear Irrigation (Wax Removal)

Children's Audiology

Patient Information

The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
[https:// www.wvl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)
or scan the QR code.



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Children's Audiology
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Before Irrigation

Ear wax is a normal body secretion; it provides protection against infection and dust particles. The ear is self-cleaning, and the wax works its way out naturally.

Your child has been referred for wax removal. This may be because they have a hearing loss which is suspected to be caused by the wax, or we need the ears to be cleared for their hearing aid use.

To soften ear wax prior to removal most patients find that applying 1-2 drops of olive oil for 3-4 nights prior to an appointment is helpful.

It is easier if you use a dropper or an olive oil ear spray. Do not use cotton wool following insertion of the oil as it will soak it up. Only use the wool to wipe away any excess from around the outer ear.

Don't forget to tell the clinician if your child has:

- had a perforation
- had a middle ear infection in the last 6 weeks
- had problems following irrigation previously
- had previous ear surgery
- pain/tenderness of the ear at the time of the appointment

During Irrigation

It can be uncomfortable to have your ears irrigated but it should not be painful.

During the procedure, please report the following immediately:

- Any ear pain or dizziness
- If the water is too hot or cold
- If you want the Audiologist to stop

Risks

Ear irrigation is not without risk. This includes:

- Failure to remove the ear wax
- Pain/discomfort, dizziness/vertigo, nausea/vomiting
- Perforation of the ear drum, ear infection
- Worsening of pre-existing tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Grazing of the ear canal which may result in some bleeding

Following Irrigation

Keep your child's ears dry for a few days, especially when bathing and swimming.

If your child's ear starts to discharge or becomes painful you should ring for an appointment with your GP.

If a perforation of the eardrum is found following irrigation, you will be informed. The Clinician will ensure that the water