

## Mystery of Forgotten Ear Ring

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**Abstract:** Foreign bodies in the external ear canal present frequently particularly in paediatric population. The patients introduce most foreign objects; however insects may enter into the meatus accidentally. We present a 29 year old female presented to us with chronic otorrhea due to forgotten ear ring in right ear.

**Keywords:** otorrhea, foreign body.

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### INTRODUCTION

Foreign bodies in the ear are common presentations in outpatient department. The [1, 2, 3, 4] common foreign bodies include paper, cotton wool, rubber, seeds, beads, ball bearings, stones, and crayons etc. They are commonly seen in pediatric patients [5, 6, 7]. Most of the time patients introduce most foreign bodies in ear. They present with features of otitis externa. They can also present with otalgia, deafness & tinnitus. We present a 29 year old female with otorrhea due to forgotten ear ring in right ear.

### CASE REPORT

A 29 yr old female presented to the outpatient department with otorrhea since 1 and half years. There were no other complaints. There is history of taking on

& off treatment from local practitioner in the form of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory ear drops. On local examination, there was purulent discharge from right ear. Through wash was given with normal saline. Otoscopy was done which revealed a ear ring located on ear drum with pus flakes. Again history about insertion of foreign body was asked then patient revealed that once after getting up in the morning she found only left ear ring and no right ear ring. Ear ring was removed with plain pediatric forcep. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory ear drops were prescribed for 5 days. ENT specialist opinion was taken and advised to continue ear drops. Patient is fine with 1 month follow up visit.



**Fig. 1: Foreign Body Removed From Right Ear**

### DISCUSSION

Early treatment is required for acute symptoms caused by foreign bodies in the aero-digestive like acute upper air-way obstructions and dysphagia when compared with ear and nose foreign bodies [8]. A

prospective study found a significantly higher proportion of foreign body in the right ear and nostril compared to the left [9]. Foreign bodies in the ear can be easily seen on otoscopy. Foreign bodies in the

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external ear can present frequently particularly in paediatric populations.

Pebbles, beads, insects and plastic toys, being the most common foreign bodies encountered [2]. Balbani AP *et al.*; found bean seeds were found to be the most common ear foreign bodies [1]. Otitis externa, perforation of tympanic membrane, canal wall laceration, chronic otitis media etc can be different complications. Treatment includes forcep extraction, ear syringing, general anesthesia and suction extraction etc.

In our case, patient has forget or unnoticed the absence of right ear ring in right ear which eventually caused complication like otorrhea, use of unnecessary treatment like ear drops in the form of anti-inflammatory and antibiotics. The problem was amenable to treatment but due to patient negligence as well as failure of prompt referral to specialist has lead to complications.

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