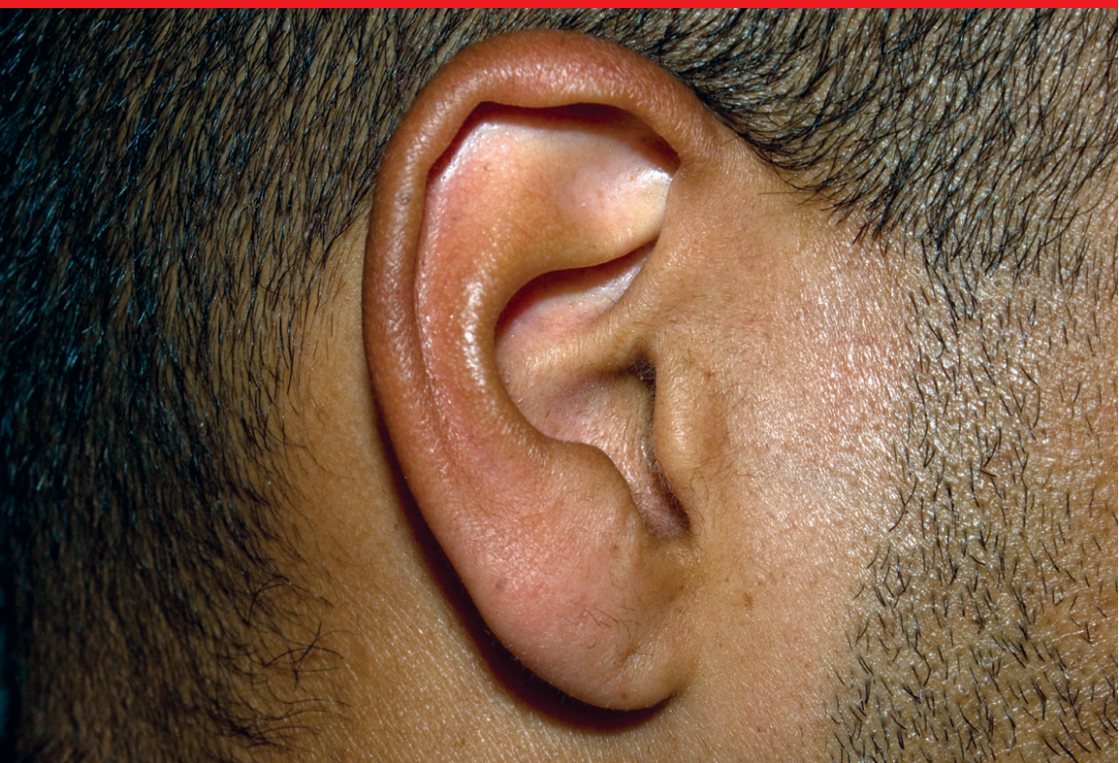


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1st Draft 19.11.2020

Intratympanic Therapy Clinic



Turnberg Building
Neurosurgery Department
0161 206 2303

**Saving lives,
Improving lives**

Your doctor has recommended that you have a course of injections into your ear. This type of injection is used to treat inner ear problems such as sudden inner ear hearing loss and balance disturbance associated with conditions such as Meniere's Disease.

It is also used prior to some types of skull base surgery where there is a high chance of significant balance disturbance following the operation.

The drug to be injected varies depending on the reason for the injection. It might be a steroid or it could be an antibiotic called gentamicin.

The latter is not used in this setting for its antibiotic effects but because one of its side effects is to chemically take away the balance function.

What does having an intratympanic injection involve?

The treatment is performed as a day case and takes around one hour to perform. It is carried out by an ear nose and throat specialist.

This may not be the specialist you saw in clinic but who ever performs the treatment will be fully trained to undertake the procedure. There will also be a nurse present during the treatment.

You will be asked to lie on a couch on your back with your head turned away from the side that is being treated.

A local anaesthetic spray or cream will be applied to the skin of your ear canal and to your ear drum.

This is left in place for up to 30 minutes and after this time will make the ear numb. The specialist will then examine your ear with a microscope and remove the local anaesthetic.

They will then pass a very small needle through the ear drum into the middle ear. The drug is then injected and you will be asked to lie still for 30 minutes. This allows the drug to be absorbed into the inner ear. The injection can sometimes sting a little as the drug is injected but passing the needle through the ear drum is not usually painful.

continued page 3

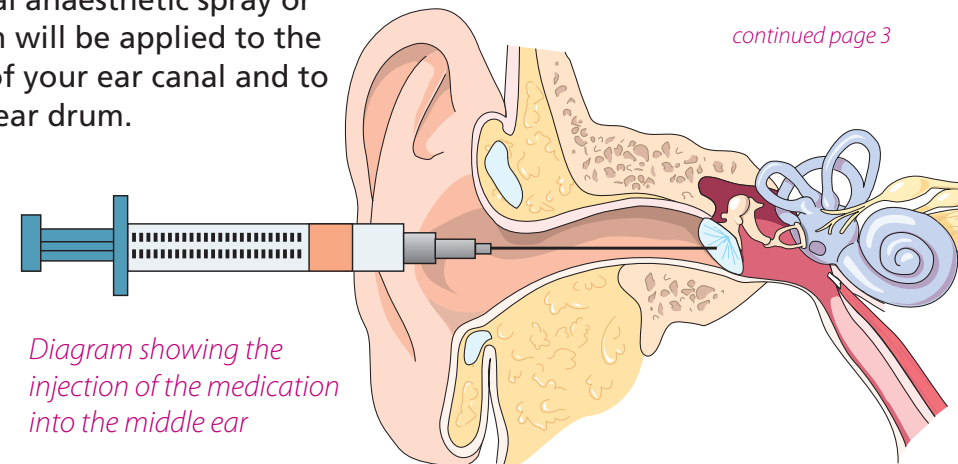


Diagram showing the injection of the medication into the middle ear

After half an hour some cotton wool will be placed in your ear and you can then get up. You should be able to go home fairly soon after the injection has been performed.

For patients being treated for Meniere's Disease or prior to skull base surgery the injections are repeated weekly for 3 weeks.

For patients with sudden inner ear hearing loss the treatments might be performed daily over three days.

If you are having gentamicin injections, you may start to feel a little imbalanced a few days after the treatment.

This is caused by the medication damaging the balance organ and is an expected effect of the treatment. It should pass after a few days. Steroid injections do not usually have this side effect.

What happens after the treatment?

Whilst most people feel well after the treatment, there are a few symptoms that can occur temporarily.

The commonest symptoms are earache or muffled hearing because of the fluid in the ear. These usually resolve after 24 hours.

It is also fairly common for patients to feel slightly dizzy for a few hours after the treatment.

For those having gentamicin injections, it is not uncommon for imbalance to start a few days after the treatment. This is caused by the medication damaging the balance organ and is an expected effect of the treatment.

It should pass after a few days. Steroid injections do not usually have this side effect.

The cotton wool ball that was placed in your ear after the treatment can be removed after one hour.

It is recommended that you come to the appointment with someone else who can drive you home afterwards. This avoids the need for you to drive yourself. This is important because of the dizziness that some patients experience.

During the course of treatment and for one week following treatment it is recommended that you keep your ear dry.

This is because of the tiny hole in the ear drum from the injection. This usually heals very quickly but whilst present predisposes you to infection.

The easiest way to keep the ear dry is to use cotton wool with some Vaseline on it. There are, however, a number of commercially available ear plugs that are adequate for this purpose.

Are there any risks?

As this medication is instilled in the ear in very small amounts it will act only on the ear. It will not have any effects on any other organ.

The procedure is generally extremely safe. However, there is a small risk of infection, reaction to the medication and the development of a hole in the ear drum. These are all extremely unlikely. We will, however, carefully monitor you before and after the medication is instilled.

If there are any problems following treatment or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact details are on the following page.

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Notes

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