

Healthy Hearing Urgent Referral Guidelines

Special Olympics
Healthy Hearing



CONDITION	URGENT REFERRAL TO EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT PHYSICIAN IF...	PREVALENCE
Othematoma = hematoma auris	Visual inspection shows a purplish hard swelling of the external ear. Can result from hit on ear e.g. basketball	Sporadic
Foreign body in the ear canal	Visual inspection with otoscope shows foreign body e.g. peanut, hearing aid dome, cotton wool.	Sporadic
Otitis externa	Visual inspection with otoscope shows pink ear canal mucosa, if painful during inspection, or bleeding or moist/fungal spores in dead skin in the ear canal.	More common
Myringitis	Visual inspection with otoscope shows obvious infection (fever, red or bulbous ear drum) or if painful when flying, driving up and down hills	Sporadic
Acute otitis media	Visual inspection with otoscope shows obvious infection (fever, red or purple ear drum) or if painful when flying or driving over hills.	More common e.g with a cold/sinus trouble.
Draining ear	Visual inspection (with otoscope) shows prurulent flow in the ear canal of thin or thicker moisture.	Sporadic with perforation.