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Otoscopy and Tympanic Membrane Diagram

Practical 02 / Supervised clinical examination

Aim

Demonstrate gentle otoscopy and sketch a side-specific tympanic membrane finding.

Principle

The canal and tympanic membrane should be described separately. Visual landmarks and membrane position, integrity and mobility provide complementary information.

Materials and Requirements

- Clean otoscope with appropriate specula
- Ear trainer and supplied pneumatic otoscopy or microscopy records

Procedure

1. Confirm consent and side and inspect the pinna and canal entrance before using the otoscope.
2. Check pain, discharge, hearing change, prior procedures and known perforation. Inspect pinna, mastoid area and canal entry under direct light and explain the examination.
3. Choose a suitable clean speculum. Practise safe hand bracing and canal alignment on the model or supervised volunteer.
4. Test the lamp, choose the largest comfortable clean tip for the model and brace the examining hand against the head or model. Align the canal with the age-appropriate method taught by faculty.

Continue with step 5 on the next page.

Procedure Continued

Otoscopy and Tympanic Membrane Diagram

5. Advance only under direct vision sufficiently to view the canal and membrane and stop if resistance, pain or unexpected movement occurs. Compare the other ear when appropriate.
6. Identify canal, membrane, malleus and position of observed changes. Review a model or recording for mobility assessment when appropriate.
7. Identify the malleus and umbo, pars tensa and pars flaccida if visible. Describe colour, contour, integrity and the location of a finding and assess mobility only in the approved demonstration.
8. Draw a labelled membrane with side and quadrants and record limits such as wax or incomplete visualisation.
9. Sketch four quadrants on the correctly sided diagram. Add orientation and visible landmarks and mark wax, incomplete views or other reasons confidence is limited.

Precautions

- Do not advance against pain or resistance.
- Practise pneumatic techniques and instrumentation only in the approved teaching setup.

Observations and Interpretation

Otoscopy and Tympanic Membrane Diagram

Observations and Record

Item	What to record	What it tells you
Canal	Patency, inflammation, wax and visualisation	Distinguishes external and middle-ear clues
Membrane	Landmarks, integrity and position	Supports localised description
Mobility	Observation or record under approved method	Adds information about membrane movement

Worked Example

An image shows a retracted membrane but little of the canal is seen. Record what is visible and what is obscured before suggesting a middle-ear assessment.

Result and Interpretation

Give a clear side-specific report and diagram. State if the membrane was incompletely seen.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why brace the examining hand?

It helps prevent sudden relative movement between the otoscope and ear.

What does membrane mobility add?

It helps assess middle-ear mechanics when measured under appropriate conditions.

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