

Treatment

- Ear cleaning
- Antibiotics
- Ear drops
- Surgery

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Cholesteatoma

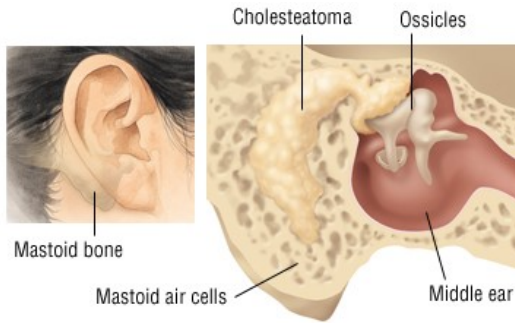


How do Cholesteatomas Develop?

Cholesteatomas usually develop due to poor eustachian tube function combined with middle ear infections. When the eustachian tube isn't working properly, the air in the middle ear is absorbed by the body, which creates a partial vacuum. The vacuum sucks in a pouch or sac by stretching the eardrum, especially in places weakened by infections. The sac or pouch that is formed often becomes a cholesteatoma. There is also a rare form of cholesteatoma that is present at birth.

What are the Symptoms?

- Ear drainage, possibly with a foul odor
- Full feeling or pressure in the ear
- Hearing loss
- Pain behind or in the ear
- Dizziness
- Muscle weakness on one side of the face



What is a Cholesteatoma?

A cholesteatoma is a skin growth that occurs in the middle ear. It is usually a result of repeated infections that cause an ingrowth of skin in the eardrum. Cholesteatomas often take the shape of a cyst, or pouch, which sheds layers of old skin that then build up inside the ear. Over time, the cholesteatoma can increase in size and destroy the small bones of the middle ear.