

OTOSCOPY

Quick Reference Guide

Purpose

To check for signs of ear disease or abnormal development

Description

An inspection of the external ear canal, surrounding tissue, and tympanic membrane (eardrum)



Equipment

- External inspection: adequate lighting
- Internal inspection: video otoscope with new speculum/tip

Set-Up

- Place new speculum on otoscope
- Check otoscope-computer connection

Procedure

- Position baby on caregiver while sitting at the same level
- Position yourself sitting level with the baby (on chair or kneeling on ground)

External Inspection:

- Inspect the pinna (external part of ear) and area around it for any abnormalities, signs of drainage, and/or redness.

Internal Inspection:

- Turn on the otoscope by pressing the colored button at the top of the power base and turning the otoscope clockwise.
- Hold the otoscope in your dominant hand.
- Straighten the ear canal for best viewing by gently pulling down and back on the ear.
- Slowly insert the speculum into the ear canal while bracing your hand against the baby's head using your pinky finger or the heel of your hand.
 - Bracing prevents the risk of hurting the baby if he/she moves during otoscopy.
- Carefully watch as you insert the speculum into the ear canal.
- Look into magnifying lens and through the speculum. You should be able to visualize the external canal and tympanic membrane (eardrum).