Ear, Foreign Body in

It is common for young children to put objects into the ear canal. These may include pebbles, beads, beans, and any other small objects which will fit. In adults, objects such as cotton swabs used to relieve itching or soreness in the ear may become lodged (get stuck in) in the ear canal. In all ages, the most common foreign bodies are insects that enter the ear canal. Foreign bodies may cause pain, buzzing or roaring sounds, hearing loss, and ear drainage.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Once the caregiver removes the object from the ear, there are usually no further problems.
- Keep small objects out of reach of young children. Tell your children not to put object into ears, and that if it happens again, to tell you or another adult immediately.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is bleeding from the ear or increased pain and swelling.
- There is reduced hearing.
- Pain and discharge from the ear continues. This may be a sign of infection or may suggest that the object was not completely removed.
- Another small object gets stuck in the ear canal. Do not try to remove it with tweezers, a finger, or stick anything into the ear. Such actions may cause the object to be pushed farther in and make it more difficult to remove.
- Headache, fever, or other serious problems develop.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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