Cerumen Impaction

A cerumen impaction is when the wax in your ear forms a plug. This plug usually causes hearing loss. Sometimes it also causes an earache or dizziness. Removing a cerumen impaction can be difficult and painful. The wax sticks to the ear canal. The canal is sensitive and bleeds easily. If you try to remove a heavy wax build up with a Q tip, you may push it in further.

Irrigation with water, suction, and small ear curettes may be used to clear out the wax. If the impaction is fixed to the skin in the ear canal, ear drops (mineral oil, Debrox, Cerumenex) may be needed for a few days to loosen the wax. People who build up a lot of wax frequently can use ear wax removal products available in your local drugstore.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop an earache, reduced hearing, or marked dizziness.

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