

Cerumen Management: Case Studies

If you are new to cerumen management make sure to review the lessons, *Introduction to Cerumen Management*, *Cerumen Management: Curette*, *Cerumen Management: Irrigation*, and *Cerumen Management: Suction*, for important background information.

On the following pages are example situations using CARL as your patient. Each case will contain the patients main concern, case history, and assessment results. Using the information provided, you will be able to demonstrate your clinical knowledge and cerumen management skills by completing a detailed patient report for each situation.

Prerequisites

- Introduction to Cerumen Management
- Cerumen Management: Curette
- Cerumen Management: Irrigation
- Cerumen Management: Suction



Hartmann speculum with Bionix lighted curette

Materials

- CARL
- CARL ears
- Illumination
- Simulated cerumen
- Suction machine and tips with thumb valve (i.e. Baron size 5 Fr)
- Warm water to unclog instrument
- Various curettes: Metal & plastic
- Various aural specula: Metal & plastic
- Various irrigation systems with basin

Consent

Prior to engaging in any procedure, you must obtain informed consent from the client. For more information, consult with your licensing body.¹

¹ Obtaining consent by the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (CASLPO)
http://www.caslpo.com/sites/default/uploads/files/GU_EN_Obtaining_Consent_for_Services.pdf

Example 1: Carl

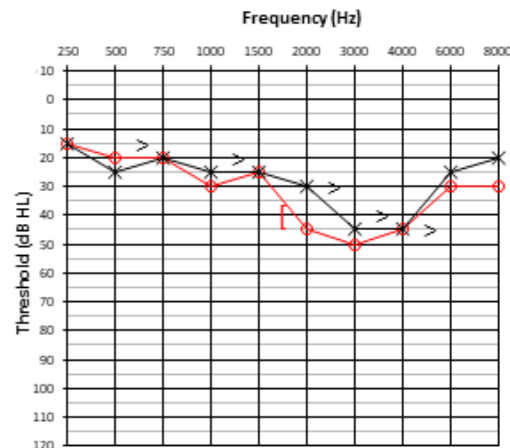
Main Concern: Itchy and plugged feeling in both ears.

History: Carl is a 58 year old factory worker. Carl has worked in noise for over 30 years and does not always wear hearing protection. CARL has constant bilateral “hissing” tinnitus for approximately 5 years. Carl has the TV volume turned up more than his wife prefers and has difficulties hearing at family gatherings. Carl denied a history of the following: ear infection, ear surgery, medical condition, and prescription medication.

FIRST, YOU WILL NEED TO DEPOSIT SIMULATED CERUMEN IN EACH EAR.

Assessment: Below are Carl’s results after cerumen removal. Describe or illustrate otoscopy findings below.

	Right	Left
Word Recognition Score	76%	82%
Speech Reception Threshold	30 dB HL	30 dB HL
Acoustic Admittance Measures		
Ear Canal Volume	1.5 cc	1.8 cc
Acoustic Admittance	.52	.8
Middle Ear Pressure	-63	-12



Otoscopy	
Right	Left

Treatment: Write below, a script of your suggested treatment plan and a description of the procedure.

Summary and Recommendations: Write a summary of the appointment and include all recommendations based on the results.

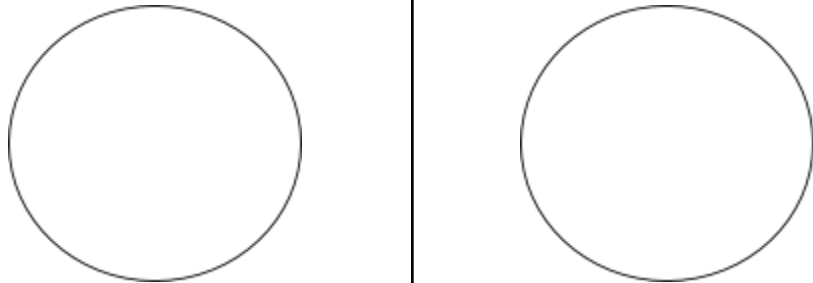
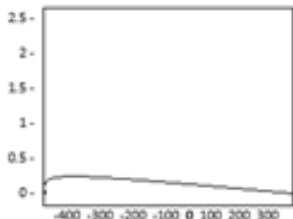
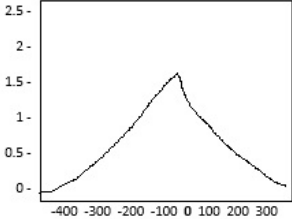
Example 2: Carol

Main Concern: Failed online hearing screening in one ear.

History: Carol is 47 years old and failed an online hearing screening in the left ear. Carol reported a few middle ear infections as a child but did not require any surgery or additional care. Carol's father got his first set of hearing aids this year. Carol is on a blood thinner, cholesterol, and blood pressure medications. All other case history was unremarkable.

FIRST, YOU WILL NEED TO DEPOSIT SIMULATED CERUMEN IN EACH EAR.

Assessment: Below are Carol's results after cerumen removal. Describe or illustrate otoscopy findings below.

Otoscopy	
Description	
Illustration	
Tympanogram	
<p>BEFORE</p> 	<p>AFTER</p> 

Treatment: Write below, a script of your suggested treatment plan and a description of the procedure.

Summary and Recommendations: Write a summary of the appointment and include all recommendations based on the results.

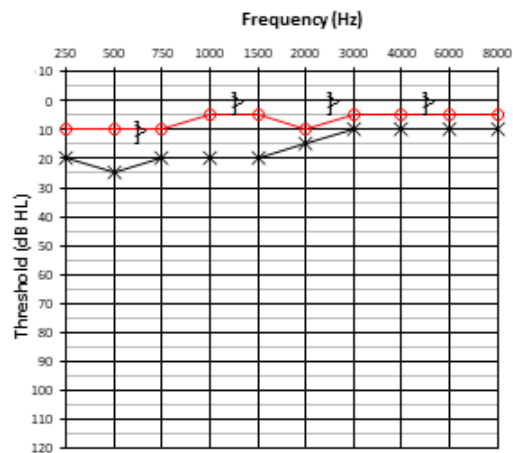
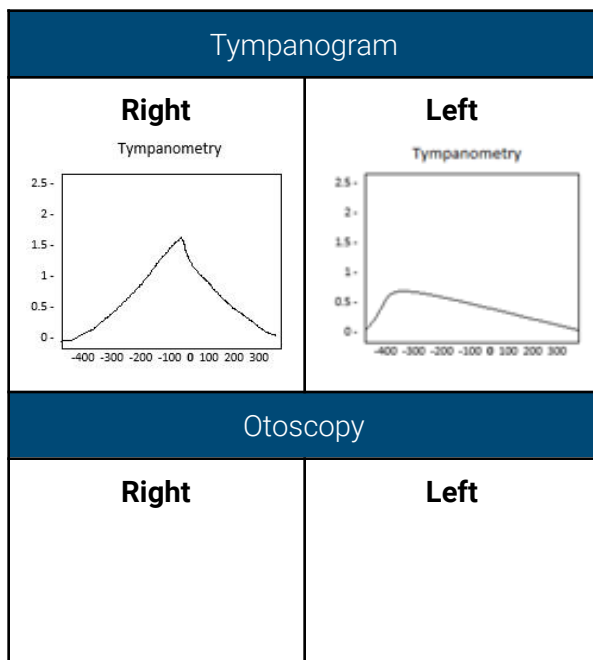
Example 3: Karim

Main Concern: Aural fullness and discomfort.

History: Karim is 7 years old and has been complaining about his left ear. Karim was born full-term without complications and passed his newborn hearing screening. Karim has had approximately 5 middle ear infections (MEI's) since birth; usually in the left ear. In the past 12 months, Karim has had 2 MEI's that were treated with antibiotics, prescribed by his family physician. Parents have no hearing concerns. Karim is doing well in school, but his parents have concerns about his pronunciation of /th/, /s/, and /r/. All other case history was unremarkable.

USE SMALL CARL EARS AND DEPOSIT SIMULATED CERUMEN IN EACH EAR

Assessment: Below are Karim's results after cerumen removal. Describe otoscopy findings below.



Treatment: Write below, a script of your suggested treatment plan and a description of the procedure.

Summary and Recommendations: *After treatment, the tympanogram did not change and you completed a hearing assessment (results above). Write a summary of the appointment and include all recommendations based on the results.

Example 4: Eva

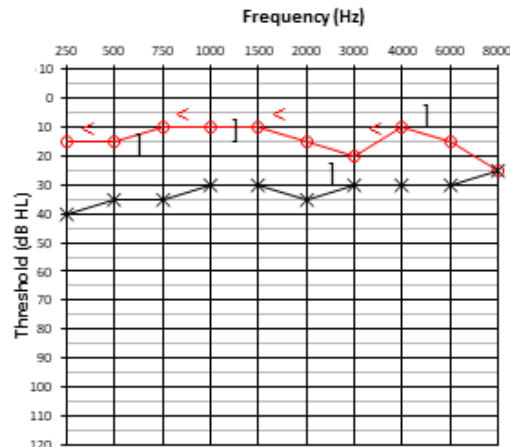
Main Concern: Difficulty hearing and constant ringing in the left ear.

History: Eva is 31 years old and is expecting her second child. She has noticed a gradual decline in hearing in her left ear over the years. Her mother has had hearing issues for many years since her 20s-30s but has not sought treatment. She worked in a factory for a few summers while in university and often wore hearing protection. She denied having any other medical issues, prescription medications, dizziness, ear infections, or ear surgery.

FIRST, YOU WILL NEED TO DEPOSIT SIMULATED CERUMEN IN BOTH EARS

Assessment: Below are Eva's results after cerumen removal. Describe otoscopy findings below.

	Right	Left
Word Recognition Score	100%	100%
Speech Reception Threshold	15 dB HL	30 dB HL
Acoustic Admittance Measures		
Ear Canal Volume	1.0 cc	.8 cc
Acoustic Admittance	.6	.75
Middle Ear Pressure	-52	-25



Otoscopy	
Right	Left

Treatment: Write below, a script of your suggested treatment plan and a description of the procedure.

Summary and Recommendations: Write a summary of the appointment and include all recommendations based on the results.

Example 5: Patrick

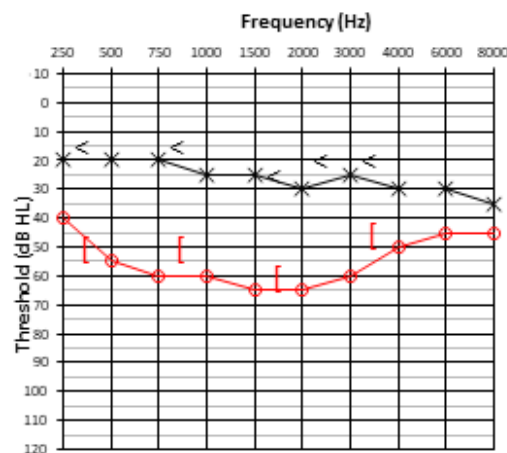
Main Concern: Hearing loss, aural fullness, tinnitus all in one ear.

History: Patrick is 43 years old and 3 days ago when he woke-up, he noticed a significant change in hearing in his right ear. He thought it was earwax and put oil in his ear hoping it would get better, but it has not. He saw his family physician who noted wax in both ears and recommended seeing an audiologist for cerumen removal. Patrick is a type-2 diabetic, and his condition is managed well. Patrick takes oral medications for his diabetes and high cholesterol. All other case history was unremarkable.

FIRST, YOU WILL NEED TO DEPOSIT SIMULATED CERUMEN IN BOTH EARS

Assessment: Below are Patrick's results before and after cerumen removal. Describe otoscopy findings below.

Acoustic Admittance Measures BEFORE		
	Right	Left
Ear Canal Volume	.3 cc	1.5 cc
Acoustic Admittance	---	.9
Middle Ear Pressure	---	-63
Acoustic Admittance Measures AFTER		
	Right	Left
Ear Canal Volume	1.2 cc	1.5 cc
Acoustic Admittance	.85	.9
Middle Ear Pressure	-34	-63
Otoscopy		
	Right	Left



	Right	Left
Word Recognition Score	46%	90%
Speech Reception Threshold	60 dB HL	25 dB HL

Treatment: Write below, a script of your suggested treatment plan and a description of the procedure.

Summary and Recommendations: Write a summary of the appointment and include all recommendations based on the results.