

# An unusual animated aural foreign body in children

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## OBJECTIVE

Infants and young children frequently insert foreign bodies into the ear. It usually occurs in children between 2 and 7 years of age and during play. These can be classified as organic or inorganic.

I examined the patient, a 2 year-and- 6 months-old girl, from the countryside, who came to our clinic and had an interclinic examination on the 6th of July 2013. The hospitalization reasons: the actual disease started suddenly 24 hours ago in the sleep time, the patient has a violent crying accompanied by right otoragia. Previous medical history: the mother denies any acute upper respiratory tract infections. Physical examination: Normal appearance facies-inspection; Palpation: without adenopathy; Anterior rhinoscopy with normal nasal turbinates; **Otoscopy: fresh blood at the level of the right external meatus, after its suction, an inert white-grey foreign body with slow, smooth, circled motion at the level of the right external auditory meatus.**

After repeated examinations, the child was extremely agitated/ restless, suction of blood followed immediately after running blood. Under otoscopic control I identified an unusual foreign body- a live worm that was retreating back to the tympanic membrane during the suction. The examination was performed with great difficulty, due to the agitation of the child, without the possibility of establishing if the tympanic membrane is intact or perforated, an important issue in the therapeutical conduct. **Positive Diagnosis** Clinical data set: An unusual animated foreign body in the right external auditory ear ; Differential diagnosis External otitis; Acute haemorrhagic otitis media ; Inert foreign bodies in the ear ; Acute suppurative otitis media; Hemangioma of external auditory meatus.

## RESULTS

- I finally performed the suction of the live worm with great difficulty, a worm that was moving continuously and disappeared and was retracted frequently to the level of the tympanic-internal part of the external auditory meatus.
- Suction of the whole fresh blood
- Inspection of the right tympanic membrane which appears intact after the extraction, just with a congestion
- Favourable post treatment evolution. Without any treatment, the evolution could be unfavourable with the insertion of the worm in the middle ear, aditus ad antrum, mastoid cavity followed by complications like: mastoiditis and meningitis.

Foreign bodies in the ear can be animated or unanimated. Possible complication can be: Mechanical trauma of the external auditory meatus in the case of non co-operative patients (children, disabled children). Perforation of the tympanic membrane. Fracture and dislocation of the bony of the middle ear

In the case of the animated foreign bodies, applying alcohol or oil drops can be performed if there is the certainty of an intact tympanic membrane. This procedure is totally contraindicated if there is tympanic membrane perforation.



## CONCLUSION

Any suddenly otoragia associated with agitation in children must be suspected of a foreign body. Because all of these symptoms appear in the time of sleep we must have a high index of suspicion about animated foreign body especially in young children who do not speak and cannot explain anything just crying.

## REFERENCES

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