



# CERUMEN MANAGEMENT



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## CERUMEN MANAGEMENT

Strategies, procedures & tools applied for purposes of removing cerumen and/or managing patients with impacted cerumen

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### Cerumen Removal Procedures

- Mechanical Removal
- Suction
- Irrigation

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# Mechanical removal

- Minimal equipment investment
- Offers portability
- Most patient-friendly technique

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# Objectives

- Instrumentation
- Mechanical Technique
- Light & Magnification Source Considerations
- Infection Control
- Cost analysis

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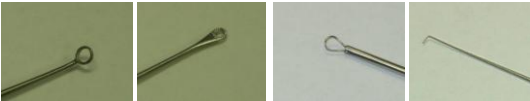
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# Mechanical Removal



- Removal of cerumen using sterile or disposable hand-held instruments

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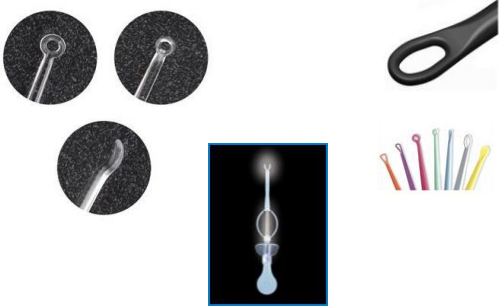
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### Disposable Instruments




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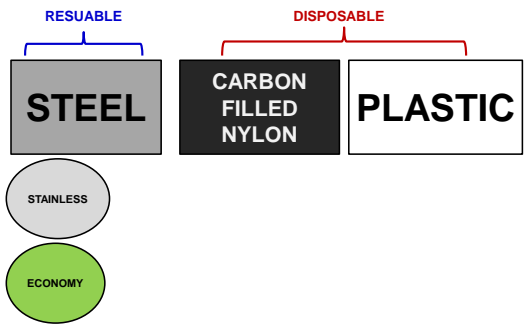
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### Mechanical Instruments




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### Mechanical Instrument Selection

- **Matter of preference**
- **Influenced by**
  - Cerumen consistency
    - Moist: curette
    - Dry: forceps
  - Degree of cerumen impaction
    - >occlusion, < surface area of tip

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# CERUMEN REMOVAL TECHNIQUE

• WEAKEST LINK



• NO LEVERAGING

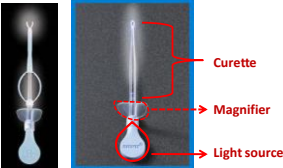


Series of horizontal lines for taking notes.

# BIONIX LIGHTED INSTRUMENTS



- Lighted curette
- 5 different styles
- Magnifier
- LED light source
- Disposable design
  - 50 tips, 1 light source, \$80
- New lighted forceps
  - 10 tips, 1 light source, \$100



## OTOSCOPES



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## HEADLAMPS



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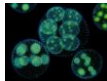
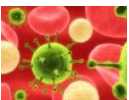
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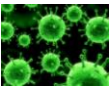
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## Infection Control



conscious management of the clinical environment for purposes of minimizing or eliminating the potential spread of disease'



Bankaitis & Kemp, 2003, 2004

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### Standard Precautions

- Appropriate personal barriers (gloves, masks, eye protection, gowns) must be worn when performing procedures that may expose to infectious agents
- Hands must be washed before and after every patient contact and after glove removal
- "Touch" and "splash" surfaces must be pre-cleaned and disinfected
- Critical instruments must be sterilized
- Infectious waste must be disposed of appropriately

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### Critical Instruments

- Instruments introduced directly into bloodstream
- Non-invasive instruments that come in contact with mucous membranes or bodily substances
- Instruments that can potentially penetrate skin from use or misuse




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### TERMINOLOGY

#### CLEAN

- Remove gross contamination
- Germs not necessarily killed
- Important precursor to disinfecting & sterilizing

#### STERILIZE

- Process whereby ALL germs killed
- Specific product requirements
- Performed on all reusable critical instruments that have been cleaned prior to reuse

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## Mechanical Removal

- Offers advantages over other techniques
- Invest in necessary instruments
- Weakest link & No leveraging
- Light & magnification source
- Brace properly
- Sterilize reusables
- Rely on resources

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