

# Cholesteatoma

## What is a cholesteatoma?

- A skin growth that occurs behind the ear drum.

## What causes a cholesteatoma?

- Eustachian tube dysfunction (the tube in the middle ear)
- Infection of the middle ear.
  - With dysfunction or repeat infections, a pocket can form in the ear drum, where the cholesteatoma can form.

## What are the symptoms?

- Recurrent infection
- Full or pressure sensation
- Hearing loss
- Dizziness
- Muscle weakness on one side of the face

## How is it diagnosed?

- Direct visualization by an ENT doctor
- Audiogram or hearing test
- CT scan

## How is a cholesteatoma treated?

- Initial treatment may consist of:
  - careful cleaning of the ear
  - antibiotics
  - ear drops
- Large or complicated cholesteatomas usually require surgical treatment

