



## **EAR WAX REMOVAL – MICROSUCTION CONSENT FORM**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help inform you concerning ear wax removal by microsuction and the risks involved. It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please read each page and sign the consent at the bottom prior to your treatment.

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Ear Wax**

Ear wax is healthy in normal amounts and serves as a self-cleansing agent with protective, lubricating and antibacterial properties. For the majority, it does not cause any problems and falls out naturally. Various factors can effect ear wax production, such as diet, genetics, ageing and anatomy.

Problems associated with wax accumulation include:

- hearing loss
- ear pain
- itching
- odour or discharge
- dizziness
- tinnitus.

#### **Microsuction**

Microsuction is generally accepted as the safest and most effective method of ear wax removal.

Microsuction is a wax removal technique using a precision, low pressure suction apparatus to gently and safely suck un-wanted or obstructing skin cells and wax from the external auditory meatus (ear canal). It avoids touching the sensitive area around the ear canal and evades contact with the eardrum.

We use surgical lenses (loupes) which provide binocular magnification so that the tip of the fine cannula (the suction tube) is always under direct vision.

This technique contrasts with ear syringing where high pressure water is squirted into the ear to dislodge the wax. Microsuction is a more precise and gentle technique than ear syringing.

Occasionally we may need to use other instruments to remove hard wax. The technique means that we can always see what we are doing and can avoid touching the skin of sides of the ear canal which can make the process a lot more uncomfortable.

### **Why is microsuction better?**

Compared to traditional forms

of wax removal – ear drops and irrigation or syringing, microsuction is:

- *Safer*
- *Quicker*
- *Cleaner and neater*
- *Generally better tolerated, with less side effects*
- *More effective and likely to need only one appointment*
- *Doesn't need weeks of waiting for drops to soften the wax*
- *Microsuction may still be possible for people who struggle to use oil prior to treatment*

### **What to expect from ear microsuction**

The microsuction process can be noisy and occasionally make you feel dizzy. This usually passes within a short while. If you are having the procedure undertaken on both ears, it will take up to 30 minutes.

### **RISKS OF MICROSUCTION**

Every procedure involves a certain amount of risk, and it is important that you understand the risks involved. An individual's choice to undergo a procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your practitioner to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of microsuction:

- **Minor bleeding**
- **Soreness**
- **Mild discomfort**
- **Short-term ringing in the ear (tinnitus)**

## **PATIENT CONSENT**

Wax removal via micro suction is considered safer than other methods such as syringing. Your ear wax removal will be performed by a trained clinician working to the protocols.

Incidents during ear wax removal are uncommon, especially with micro-suction. However, possible minor risks that can occur and are deemed to be acceptable include: small nicks to the ear canal which can result in minor bleeding, soreness, mild discomfort and short-term ringing in the ear (tinnitus). To ensure the risk of complication is minimal, it is essential that accurate past medical history is supplied to our clinicians. More serious risk to the ear or eardrum can occur if the client does not remain adequately still or positioned during the procedure. Clients should inform the clinician of any discomfort or likely sudden movements occurring as a result of coughing or sneezing.

Further possible complications, side-effects and material risks inherent in the procedure include but are not limited to: incomplete removal of earwax requiring a return visit (for severely impacted wax), persistent tinnitus, perforation of the eardrum, hearing loss and infection. To keep the risk of infection to a minimum, all equipment used in the ear is sterilised or single-use only. However, there is always a risk that infection can occur once the client leaves the premises. Please contact the clinician for a follow-up visit should you experience any discomfort or worrying symptoms.

The CE marked suction unit is designed to remove fluids from the airway or respiratory support system and infectious materials from wounds. It has been adapted for the use of aural micro-suction. By agreeing to these terms and conditions, you accept that you have read and understand the possible complications that may occur and agree that Carter Chemist cannot be held responsible for them.

I have read and understood the terms and conditions above and am willing to be bound by them