



Cholesteatoma

A cholesteatoma is an abnormal collection of skin cells deep inside your ear.

They're rare but, if left untreated, they can damage the delicate structures inside your ear that are essential for hearing and balance.

Symptoms:

A cholesteatoma usually only affects 1 ear. The 2 most common symptoms are:

- * A persistent or recurring watery, often smelly, discharge from the ear, which can come and go or may be continuous
- * A gradual loss of hearing in the affected ear

Treatment:

To remove a cholesteatoma, you usually need to have surgery under general anesthetic.

After the cholesteatoma has been taken out, your ear may be packed with a dressing. This will need to be removed a few weeks later, and you'll be told how to look after it.

