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Otoscope and its components

The otoscope is also known as auriscope. Using this instrument it is possible to examine the external auditory canal and ear drum. If there is perforation of ear drum then a glimpse of middle ear mucosa can be had.



Image of an otoscope.

Components of otoscope:

It contains a handle and a head. The head of an otoscope contains a light source which could be in the form of LED bulb / fibre optic illumination system, and a simple magnification lens (about 8 diopters).

The front end of otoscope has provision for attaching disposable ear speculum.

The head of some otoscopes has provision for attachment of siegle bulb which can be used to test the mobility of ear drum.

Power supply:

Power supply to otoscope is from rechargeable batteries provided. Otoscopes used in doctor's office will have wall mount power supply provision.

How to hold the otoscope?

Otoscope is usually held either in a pencil grip / hammer grip 1.

It is held usually in the same hand as the side of ear examined. 1

References:

1. [Simon Carney and John P Birchall.How to use an otoscope. Student BMJ.1995](#)

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