



OSCE Checklist: Otoloscopy & Hearing Assessment

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent to proceed with the examination	
6	Position the patient sitting on a chair	
7	Ask if the patient has any pain before proceeding	
8	Gather appropriate equipment	
General inspection		
9	Perform a brief general inspection, looking for clinical signs suggestive of underlying pathology	
Gross hearing assessment		
10	Ask if the patient has noticed any recent changes to their hearing	
11	Whisper a number or word 60cm from the ear whilst masking the ear not being tested	
12	Ask the patient to repeat the number or word back to you	
Weber's test		
13	Tap a 512Hz tuning fork and place in the midline of the forehead	
14	Ask the patient "Where do you hear the sound?"	
Rinne's test		
15	Place a vibrating 512 Hz tuning fork firmly on the mastoid process	
16	Confirm the patient can hear the sound of the tuning fork and then ask them to tell you when they can no longer hear it	
17	When the patient can no longer hear the sound, move the tuning fork in front of the external auditory meatus to test air conduction	
18	Ask the patient if they can now hear the sound again	
Otoscopy		
19	Ask the patient if they have any ear discomfort (if so examine the non-painful side first)	
20	Inspect the pinnae and the surrounding area (pre-auricular, post-auricular)	
21	Pull the pinna upwards and backwards with your other hand to straighten the external auditory meatus	
22	Position otoscope at the external auditory meatus	
23	Advance the otoscope under direct vision	
24	Examine the tympanic membrane	

25	Withdraw the otoscope carefully	
26	Discard the otoscope speculum into a clinical waste bin	
To complete the examination...		
27	Explain to the patient that the examination is now finished	
28	Thank the patient for their time	
29	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
30	Summarise your findings	
31	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. cranial nerve examination, audiometry, tympanometry)	

Read the full guide at
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