# OSCE Checklist: Otoscopy & 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Withdraw the otoscope carefully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Discard the otoscope speculum into a clinical waste bin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To complete the examination...</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Explain to the patient that the examination is now finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Thank the patient for their time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Summarise your findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. cranial nerve examination, audiometry, tympanometry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the full guide at [geekymedics.com](http://geekymedics.com)

Download our clinical skills app