University Hospitals Dorset
NHS Foundation Trust

Pinna haematoma

Patient information

What is a pinna haematoma?

The pinna is the area at the top of your external ear, a haematoma (collection of blood) can form here in the layer between the skin and cartilage, usually after blunt force trauma. If left untreated, this can lead to the cartilage being deprived of oxygen and result in ear deformities, such as cauliflower ear or infections.

Signs and symptoms

- Pain
- Swelling
- Bruising or discoloration around the ear
- Deformity of the curve of the ear

Treatment

During your stay in the ear, nose and throat same day emergency clinic (ENT SDEC) you will be reviewed and assessed by an advanced clinical practitioner (ACP).

If we suspect there is a haematoma present, it may need draining. This is usually completed by an ACP or doctor using an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area, before draining it with a fine needle. It may need opening with a scalpel, and it is likely that a splint will be sutured (sewn) in place after the procedure to apply pressure to the area and prevent blood building up again.

If you have a drainage, you will need a follow-up appointment 2-3 days after the procedure for removal of the splint and reassessment.

We will aim to get you home on the same day - however you may need to be admitted for further treatment.

Advice for discharge

- Please keep the ear dry and clean.
- Avoid contact sports to prevent blood collecting again.
- You will be advised on pain relief to take.
- Please remember that unless told otherwise, your first contact in the community is your GP.
- If you get worse and need.
- to be seen, please contact the ENT team on **07386 682764** (Mon- Fri, 8am-8pm) or attend the emergency department out of hours.
- Please avoid hair washing while a splint is in place, to avoid infection.

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or email **uhd.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net**.

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