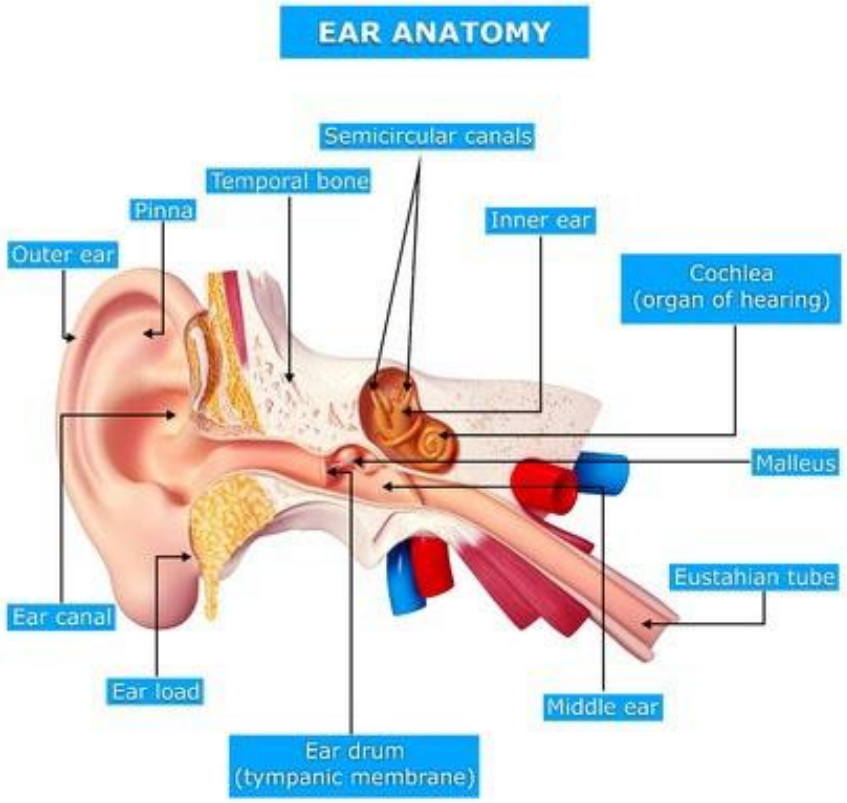
Ears

This is a diagram of the inside of the ear of most people.



Address: 23, Morriston Close, South Oxhey, Watford, WD19 6UB. Registered Charity No, 116497
Tel: 0208 3869271 Email: oacscharity.org@gmail.com, Website: www.oacscharity.org

© Copyright of Organisation of Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (O.A.C.S) Registered Charity no.1116497 12/03//2015
Author Deborah Mann

Organisation for Anti-Convulsant Syndrome

Recent research shows that in some children with an anti-Convulsant Syndrome, the congenital malformations occur in the middle and inner ears as well as other parts of the body. It is because of this that many who work within audiology/ENT/otology will not be aware of some of the basic care needs of these children. Malformations can present, to a greater or lesser degree, which can generate and enhance ear problems. As a parent it is important to make sure that you have enough understanding in order to ensure your child has their needs met.

Diagnosis of ear problems can be hindered for a number of reasons:

- Some FACS children have a communication disorder (poor language memory) presenting as a part of their neurodevelopmental delay.
- Difficulties with behavioural problems can lead to some to overlook a genuine hearing problem. It is not uncommon to see a 'naughty child, rather than seeing a child with a hearing problem.
- Many children have a diagnosis of gross motor skills, and there are times when balance problems can be associated with both ear and/or impaired brain function.

New-born hearing screening process:

Today all new-born babies are screened for hearing loss at birth in order to identify those that may need extra care.
Within the criteria of those that will need follow up is**: dysmorphic features.**
Dysmorphic features are not always noted, and in the FACS child they may not present in that particular child. Some children have been reported as not having dysmorphic features, but do present with malformations within the inner/middle ears.

If you take anti-convulsant mediation and your child has not been flagged for extra care, make sure that the personnel are aware that there may be concerns with regards to possible future challenges.

Glue Ear

It has been noted in research studies that there is between a 10 – 33% of a higher incidence of glue ear. This is a problem that can be enhanced by middle and inner ear malformations and

Address: 23, Morriston Close, South Oxhey, Watford, WD19 6UB. Registered Charity No, 116497
Tel: 0208 3869271 Email: oacscharity.org@gmail.com, Website: www.oacscharity.org

© Copyright of Organisation of Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (O.A.C.S) Registered Charity no.1116497 12/03//2015
Author Deborah Mann

poor muscle tone. If this is a problem that occurs alongside of chronic otitis media, make sure that your child is flagged as having potential serious complications.

Cleaning the Ears

Due to possible long term problems, it is recommended that your child does not have their ears syringed; more so if they have

- Chronic Otitis Media
- Congenital Malformations in the middle and inner ears.

Conductive Hearing Loss

Middle and inner ear malformations can lead to wax blocking the ear canal. This results in sound being blocked by wax so that hearing becomes more difficult. If your child is prone to this, they will need to have their ears micro suctioned.

Eustachian Tube Dysfunction

Eustachian tube dysfunctions do mean that the pressure of the middle ear is unable to equalise with atmospheric pressure, sometimes causing a muffling of one's hearing, and causing the ear pain that so many children complain of. Headaches and facial pain can also be put down to this.

As a child grows ear concerns can improve; however if your child is one that has the above complications they will need to be monitored.

If you are not sure about your child's hearing and have concerns you can try shaking a rattle out of view to see if your child responds. If you are still concerned it is important to contact your GP so that your child can receive a hearing test.

OACS have an information booklet about the ears
And anti-Convulsant Syndrome at the cost of
Members: £2.50
Non Members £3.00

Address: 23, Morriston Close, South Oxhey, Watford, WD19 6UB. Registered Charity No, 116497
Tel: 0208 3869271 Email: oacscharity.org@gmail.com, Website: www.oacscharity.org

© Copyright of Organisation of Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (O.A.C.S) Registered Charity no.1116497 12/03//2015
Author Deborah Mann