

Micro Ear Suctioning at Karori Medical Centre

What is Microsuction?

Microsuction is a tiny vacuum cleaner that is purpose built for your ears. It is a very safe and effective method for clearing the ears of wax, when used by a trained professional.

Does Microsuction hurt?

Most people find microsuction a strange feeling, that does not generally cause discomfort; however, is quite loud. Factors that can increase discomfort include:

- If the consistency of your ear wax is very firm or very soft
- If you have an outer ear infection, which can cause pain and inflammation
- If you have naturally sensitive ears
- If you have exostoses (surfer's ear) - little bony growths that develop in your ear canals from prolonged exposure to cold water or air

If Microsuction is loud, will it damage my hearing?

While Microsuction is loud, you are not exposed to the sound for a long enough time for it to cause damage to your hearing. Noise-induced hearing loss usually occurs after prolonged exposure to very loud noise and takes years to develop.

Can you still perform Microsuction if I have an ear infection?

Yes, we can still perform Microsuction if you have an active ear infection. You may find the procedure more uncomfortable than usual. Your nurse will take extra precautions to ensure that cross contamination does not occur if the infection is only present in one ear.

Do I need to soften my ear wax before getting Microsuction?

Karori Medical Centre **STRONGLY** recommends using a few drops of any kind of COOKING OIL in the ears before your appointment - use each day prior if you book your appointment days in advance. It is important to lay on the opposite side for 5-10minutes after doing this to allow the oil to soak right down. **Please AVOID using Waxsol, Cerumol or any other over the counter softening treatment before your appointment**, as this often makes the wax too soft and the experience less comfortable for you.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not perform the oil softening treatment prior to your appointment, Your nurse may not be able to successfully clear your ears and you may require a follow-up appointment.