

Cholesteatoma

Cholesteatoma (*cholesteatoma*) is a false tumor of fat cells, cholesterol, fatty acids and keratinized epithelia. It has enzymes on the surface → it destroys the surroundings. It is most often found in the middle ear or in the area of the mastoid process .

It grows locally destructively. It oppresses the surrounding structures and causes their atrophy to necrosis (destroys the auditory ossicles and the surrounding bone).

Etiology

The formation of cholesteatoma is interpreted as:

- Migration of the epidermis into the middle ear after perforation of the eardrum,
- a diverticulum of the epidermal layer of the tympanic membrane,
- true epidermoid from fragments of ectoderm during development of the ear canal.

It can be congenital or acquired (more common).

- Secondary infection is quite common (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*).

Clinical picture

- Inflammation (there is also a non-inflammatory form of genuine cholesteatoma) – chronic ear infections;
- There may be a perforation of the eardrum,
- ear discharge,
- pain;
- ± symptoms of spread to the inner ear, meninges, venous drainage;
- conductive hearing loss, deafness, balance disorders, dizziness.

Treatment

- **Surgical** – removal of cholesteatoma.

Complications

- Untreated, it causes chronic inflammation of the middle ear, damage to the facial nerve, meningitis, inflammation of intracranial veins, deafness, ...

Prognosis

Recurrences are possible after surgical removal.

Links

Related Articles

- Classification of otitis media

Source

- WIKIPEDIA.INFOSTAR.CZ,. *wikipedia.infostar.cz* [online]. [cit. 2011-12-26]. <<http://www.brana.cz/5/c/ch/cholesteatoma.html>>.
- VELKÝ LÉKAŘSKÝ SLOVNÍK,. *Velký lékařský slovník* [online]. [cit. 2011-12-26]. <<http://lekarske.slovniky.cz/pojem/cholesteatom-ucha>>.



Cholesteatoma otoscopically



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