

Otitis externa maligna

It is an infection of the external auditory canal caused by gram-negative *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in elderly and diabetic (90%) or otherwise immunosuppressed patients. Inflammation can spread to the mastoid process (*procesus mastoideus*) with mastoiditis and further intracranially. Complications include obstruction of the external auditory canal or damage to the cranial nerves (V – XII). However, some sources define otitis externa maligna by spreading external pseudomonas otitis into the mastoid process. The mortality rate for such infections is then up to 20%.

Clinical manifestations

- severe pain in the area
- purulent discharge from the ear canal
- neurological symptoms in case of intracranial infection.

Links

Related articles

- Inflammation of the outer ear

Sources

- BENEŠ, Jiří, et al. *Infekční lékařství*. 1. vydání. Galén, 2009. 651 s. ISBN 978-80-7262-644-1.
- eMedicine – Malignant Otitis Externa