

Welch Allyn Ear Wash System

Frequently Asked Questions



- 1. How far into the ear canal should I go with the eartip? Could I hurt the patient?**
The eartip should be placed into the ear canal until it is flush against the canal walls. The eartip ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch) is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the average ear canal (1 inch). Even if the eartip is fully inserted into the canal, it is not long enough to injure the eardrum. Children's ear canals are narrower, so the eartip cannot be fully inserted.
- 2. What is PSI? What is the pressure coming out of the eartip of the Ear Wash System? What faucet line pressure is required to use the Ear Wash System?**
⇒ PSI stands for **P**ounds per **S**quare **I**nch and is a unit of measuring pressure.

⇒ The pressure coming out of the eartip is 10 PSI. This level is low enough to ensure the ear canal walls or eardrum will not be damaged.

⇒ The Ear Wash System has been designed to work with a wide range of faucet pressures, ranging from 40 – 100 PSI, typical pressure is 60 – 80PSI. This means that even when your faucet is turned all the way up, the Ear Wash System will maintain a constant 10 PSI output.
- 3. What is a Venturi?** A mechanical method of creating a vacuum by changing water pressure. The Ear Wash System uses this principle to create the suction avoiding the use of any electronic components.
- 4. Which healthcare professionals can administer the Welch Allyn Ear Wash System?** Due to the safety features and ease of use, the Ear Wash System can be used effectively and safely by physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and any healthcare allied professionals. You can learn how to use the system from our detailed owner's manual, laminated reference card, instructional video or our website.
- 5. What makes the Welch Allyn Ear Wash System unique?** Welch Allyn's Hydrovac action uses simultaneous irrigation and suction, which means all discharge will be directed away from you and your patient.
- 6. Can I get reimbursement for this procedure?** The Welch Allyn Ear Wash System can qualify you for third-party reimbursement using CPT Code 69210-removal of impacted cerumen on one or both ears.
- 7. Do I need to use a cerumenolytic agent?** Ear wax softeners are not required when using this device, however, the use of ear wax softeners can reduce the procedure time significantly.

8. **Is the Welch Allyn Ear Wash System portable?** The Ear Wash System can be used in multiple exam/procedure rooms by connecting a snap aerator to each faucet. The Ear Wash System comes with a storage tray, which is compact and easy to transport safely from room to room. Multiple snap aerators can be ordered through Welch Allyn.
9. **Does this system remove cerumen faster than my current method?** As with all current cerumen removal methods, there is a great deal of variability in the amount of time to complete the procedure. Typically the procedure time is between 30 seconds to 5 minutes depending on the type of cerumen and whether or not a wax softener is used. In severe cases, the process could take significantly longer.

An advantage of the Ear Wash System when compared to current methods is the reduced time of preparation and clean up time involved, thus a potential reduction in per patient visits.

10. **What is the best way of disposing of the eartip?** According to the Center for Disease Control, cerumen is not classified as a biohazard. As a result, the disposable eartips may be disposed in any trash receptacle. There are some people who feel that it should be disposed as a biohazard.
11. **Can we use the same eartip for cleaning both ears of a patient?** This depends on the amount of cerumen that is removed. If both ears are fully occluded, the eartip may be full after cleaning one ear. If this is the case, dispose of the full eartip and replace with a new one for the other ear. In cases with less cerumen, one eartip may be used on both ears, but must be disposed of after that patient.
12. **What is nystagmus?** This is vertigo or when a person has saccadic movement, either fast or slow; dizziness.
13. **Are there multiple sized tips available?** No. The Ear Wash System includes eartips that are 9mm. There may be different sizes (i.e., pediatric) in the future.
14. **Does the tubing need to be completely dried after use?** No. If the device is cleaned and disinfected properly, there wouldn't be any risk for contamination.
15. **How will the Ear Wash System collect extremely large cerumen plugs?** The majority of the cerumen will be collected in the filter, however, if the plug is larger than the opening then it will stay suctioned to the outside of the eartip or can be easily removed from the entrance of the ear canal.