Otoscropy
Otoscopes - Purpose

- Transmit light down the ear canal to view the tympanic membrane, “landmarks, and canal walls
- Observe the color, luster, and flexibility of TM
- Conditions Diagnosed:
  - Otitis Media (“ear infection”) - an inflammation of the middle ear. TM appears red (normally gray-white).
    - Fluid and (sometimes) bacteria combine (pus) for infection.
  - Otitis Media with effusion - fluid build-up in middle ear causes “bubbles” in the TM.
- Pneumatic Otoscopy:
  - Doctor uses insufflation bulb to apply positive and negative air pressure to the TM and observe how flexible (or rigid in the case of fluid) it is.
How to do Otoscopy

• Open the external auditory canal by pulling back (and up on adults) on the pinna.
• Holding the otoscope like a pencil, insert the speculum tip into the ear canal.
• Looking through the viewing lens, enter the ear canal far enough so that the speculum fills the opening, avoiding contact with the walls of the canal, enabling a potential seal.
• Observer the Tympanic Membrane for color (gray-white) and luster (sharp triangle reflex).
• Pneumatic otoscopy would then be performed by attaching the insufflator bulb to the otoscope’s pneumatic port and then applying air pressure.