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### **Clinical Symptoms and Causes**

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It is very important to know the various signs and symptoms by which the patient can present. It is also desirable to know the various causes pertaining to the respective symptoms. The most important conclusion of such an assessment would be to shortlist the various differential diagnoses or to conclude a probable clinical diagnosis.

#### **(A) SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF EAR DISEASES**

The ear problem can present in the following ways:

1. Earache.
2. Itching.
3. Discharge
4. Hearing impairment.
5. Tinnitus.
6. Vertigo
7. Headache
8. Drowsiness / convulsions
9. Facial nerve paralysis
10. Abscesses in and around ear/ neck.

The later 5 symptoms are indicative of an impending intracranial complication.

The student is required to ask each and every point and to elicit their absence in the negative history. It is mandatory to start forming some image of the disease when starting with history taking and for this the causes of a particular symptom need to be remembered.

leading to disturbed labyrinthine function. Vertigo occurs due to malfunction of either inputs to the brain:

1. Visual
2. Vestibular
3. Proprioceptive/somatosensory inputs

### **7. Headache**

Headache indicates the involvement of dura by a middle ear pathology.  
[The pain sensitive structures in the middle ear are dura and blood vessels.]

### **8. Drowsiness / convulsions**

Indicate intracranial complications.

### **9. Facial nerve involvement**

Facial nerve involvement indicates the erosion of its canal by a middle ear process or a bell's palsy.

### **10. Abscesses in and around ear / neck**

Abscess around ear [postaural zygomatic and lucs ] and neck [Bezold's and Cittle's] indicate the extracranial, extratemporal complications of CSOM.

## **(B) SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF NOSE AND PARANASAL SINUS DISEASE**

### **Presentation**

Presentation can be by the following symptoms:

1. Nasal obstruction
2. Nasal mass
3. Nasal discharge
4. Headache
5. Nasal bleeding (epistaxis)
6. Anosmia (loss of smell)

### **1. Nasal obstruction**

1. Foreign body [most common cause in children]
2. Nasal mass

3. Nasal mass blocking the ostia with impaired drainage leading to pressure headache (pent up secretions pressure exert sinus wall).

**Note**

Site of headache corresponds with the location of the respective sinus

**5. Nasal Bleeding (Epistaxis)**

**Local causes**

1. Nose picking (mostly in children)
2. Atrophic rhinitis
3. Septal spur (DNS)

**Systemic causes:** haemopoetic disorders

**6. Anosmia (loss of smell)**

1. Anosmia is often due to the inability of air eddy currents to stimulate the olfactory mucosa lying in the roof of the nose. This may be due to some mechanical obstruction in the nose itself [e.g. nasal mass DNS foreign body].
2. Anosmia is sometimes due to the degeneration of olfactory mucosa as seen in atrophic rhinitis or ageing (presbypsychic law).
3. In very rare circumstances it may be due to postreceptor defect as seen in anterior skull base [cribriform plate] fractures.