



Why would a doctor use this on a patient?



CHEC
Charles Hastings Education Centre



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



WHAT IS THIS?

This is an ear syringe, which is used to flush out blockages of wax in the ear canal. Ear wax is produced naturally by the ear, but blockages can sometimes occur if cotton buds are used to remove it, as they can push the wax further into the ear, or if the ear canal is too narrow or the wax is too dry.

An ear syringe may have to be used to dislodge the wax if pain or dizziness occurs, if there is bleeding or discharge from the ear, or foreign bodies in the ear. These days, patients are advised to soften the wax first, using special ear drops, so that the wax can be removed easily. Trained staff can then flush the wax out of the ear without the risk of harming the ear drum.

HOW CAN I USE THIS IN THE CLASSROOM?

Use it as a starter on a lesson about the ear. Challenge students to guess which part of the body the syringe will be used to treat.

Or it could be used as a circus activity for students to look at a range of medical tools and discuss their use.

