

For ear and hearing problems, the diagnosis is made by taking a history of the patient's symptoms, and performing otoscopy to look at the ear canal and tympanic membrane.

The following diagrams should help you to diagnose and manage most ear and hearing problems. Use the chart that best fits the patient's main symptom: ear discharge, hearing loss, or ear pain.

The symptoms of tinnitus and dizziness (or vertigo) can suggest a problem with the ear, usually the inner ear. If tinnitus or dizziness are the main symptom, and they have lasted more than a few weeks, the patient should be referred to a specialist.



