

Soundbite script – The scoop on earwax

Chris Workman, AuD, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“Earwax is a substance that's produced by glands in the ear canal that consists of an oily substance that mixes with dead skin that sluffs off in the ear canal. That produces what we know is the brown, orangey substance.” (:17)

Chris Workman, AuD, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“The ear canal itself naturally has little hairs that help push it out along with the jaw movement from talking and chewing.” (:10)

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“We obviously want to try to avoid sticking something in the ear, as we may impact the wax. Or we may unintentionally rupture the eardrum, which could cause some permanent hearing damage.” (:13)

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“It can plug up a hearing aid. It can block the ear. When it blocks the ear, sometimes sound can't go in, so that can impact the effectiveness of the hearing aid. But it also can cause some problems with feedback from hearing aids, where the hearing aid starts to squeal.” (:14)