

Tympanic Membrane Rupture

What is it?

- **Tympanic Membrane Rupture**– rupture can lead to conductive hearing loss; an opening in the tympanic membrane
 - **Tympanic Membrane**- is a thin membrane that separates the external ear and the middle ear, the eardrum, the eardrum vibrates when sound waves strike it converting the sound wave into a nerve impulse that travels to the brain; the hearing process is interrupted when the eardrum is damaged
 - **Eardrum**- is a barrier to keep bacteria and outside material from entering the middle ear; if perforated bacteria can cause an infection
- **Ear Infections** – may cause a ruptured eardrum due to the pressure of fluid in the middle ear



Signs and Symptoms:

- **Symptoms**- drainage from the ear that may be clear, bloody, or pus; ear noise or buzzing, ear discomfort or earache that may be severe or increasing and may have a sudden decrease in ear pain related to drainage of the ear; hearing loss, facial weakness or dizziness if severe



Facts:

- **Ear**- is divided into the external ear, middle ear and internal ear of Labyrinth
- **Caused**- by trauma, a blow to the ear/compression injury, instrumentation injuries caused by bobby-pins or cotton swabs, burn-slag injuries frequently seen in industry from welding or hot metal machines and blast injuries as with a terrorist bombing; foreign objects in the ear

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information
 - **Examine with an Otoscope**- will see a bright cone of light in the anterior-inferior part of the membrane;
 - **Audiology**- a test that measures the extent of hearing loss
 - **Healing**- usually heals by itself within 2 months
 - **Goal**- to relieve pain and prevent infection

