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# CHOLESTEATOMA CLASSIFICATION AND SURGICAL STRATEGY

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IFOS WORLD MASTER COURSE ON HEARING REHABILITATION

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# **SELECTING THE GOOD APPROACH**



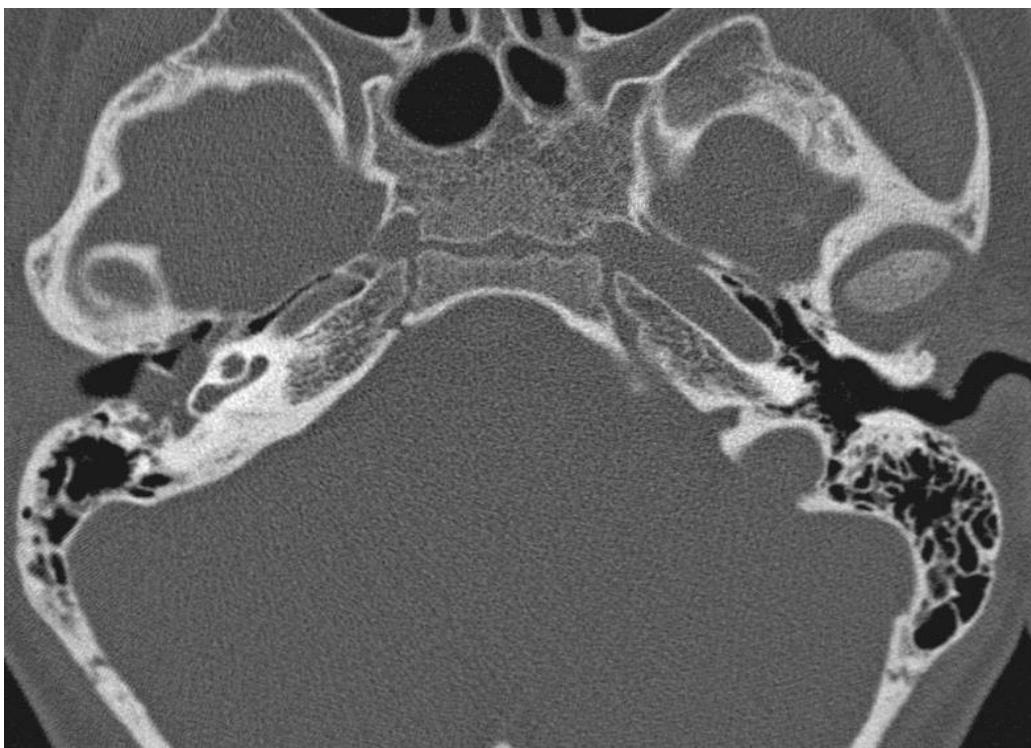
- Preoperative clinical factors :
  - Otoscopic examination
  - Audiometrical findings
  - High resolution CT-Scan
  - Use of endoscopy
  
- Intraoperative findings and surgical experience



● Right Ear



● Left ear



# USE OF ENDOSCOPY



## ■ Preoperative

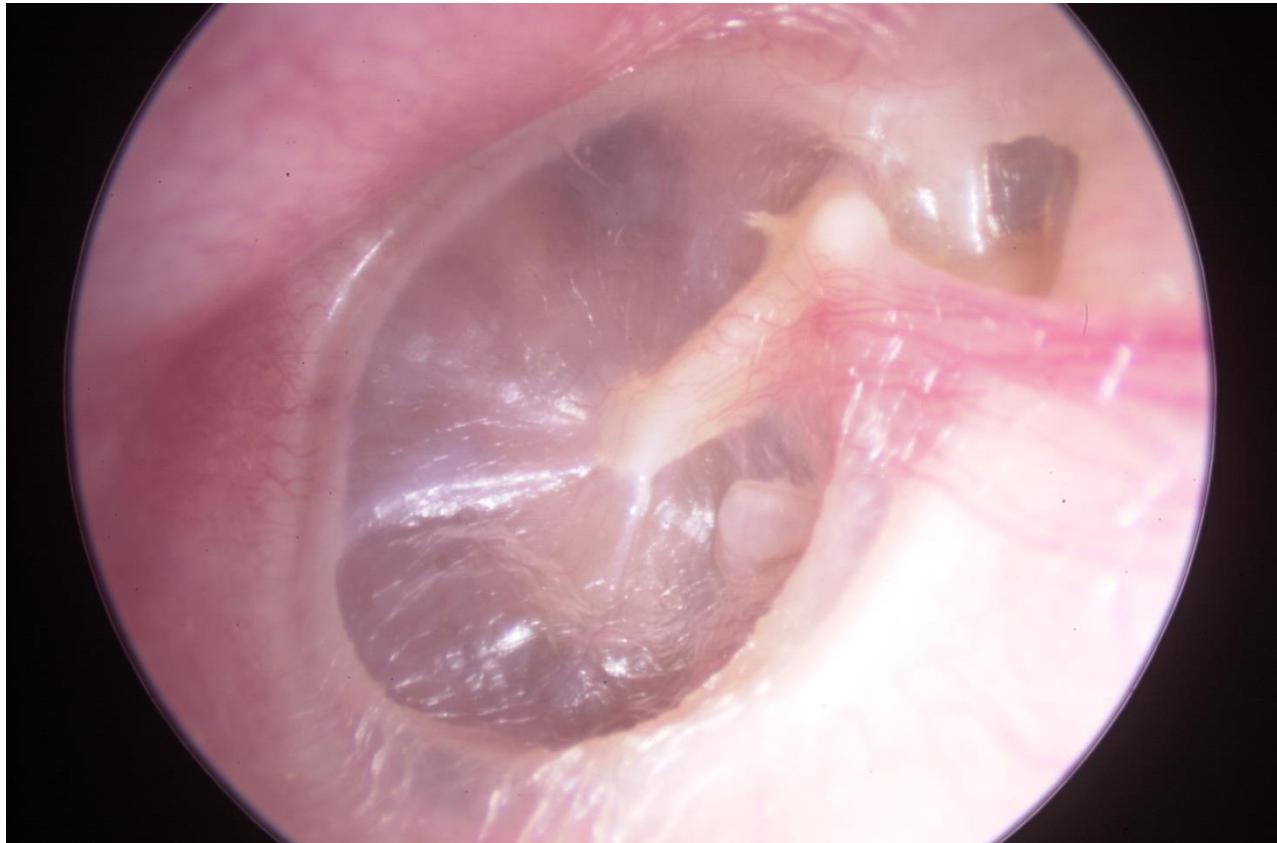
- Follow the evolution of a retraction pocket
- Selecting the approach

## ■ Intraoperative

- Due to the technical limitation we do not use as an exclusive method
- Diagnostic tool to look around the corner within the Middle ear space  
*(sinus tymani, epitympanum, anterior angle)*

## ■ Postoperative

- Posterior second look ?



▲ 11/2002

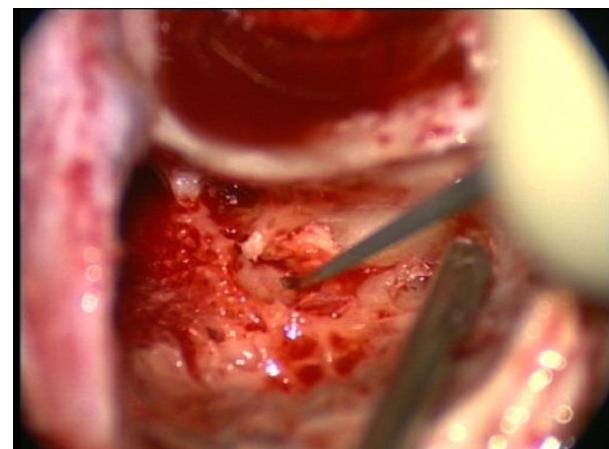
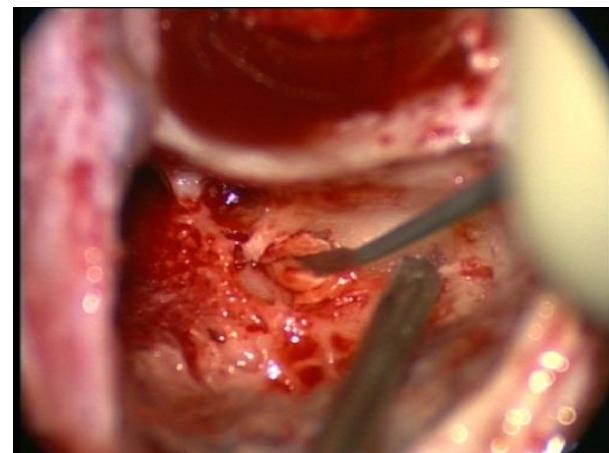
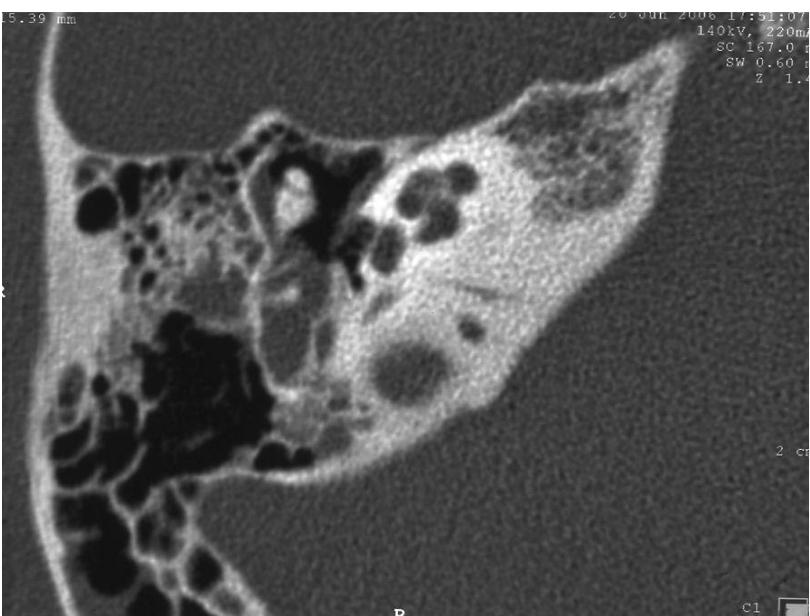
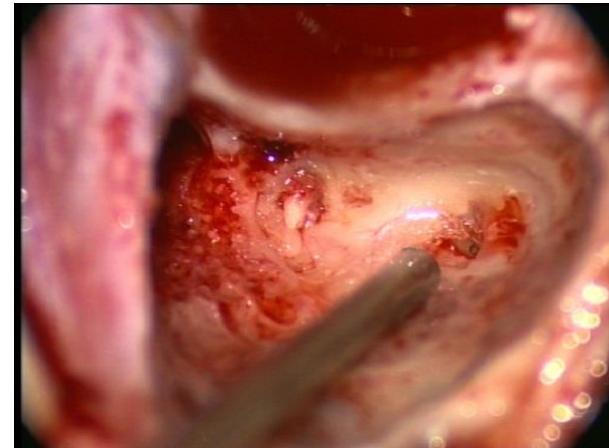
05/2005 ►

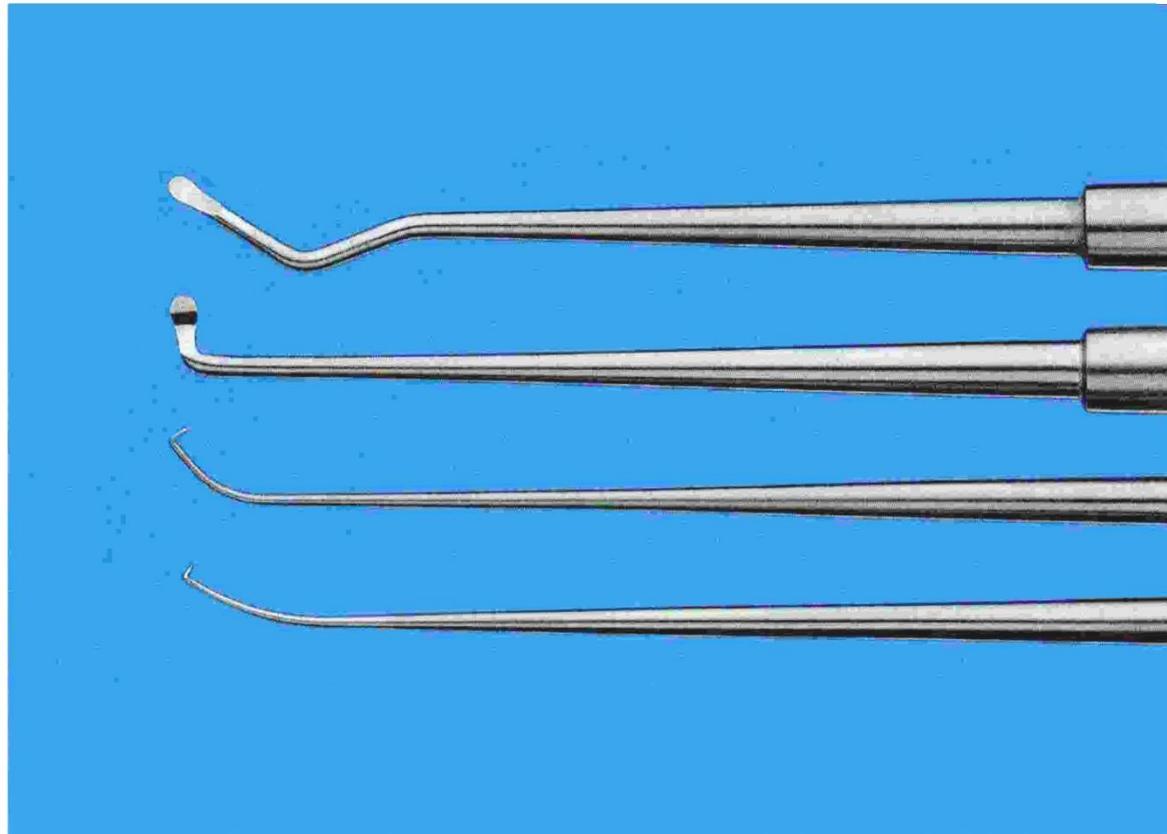
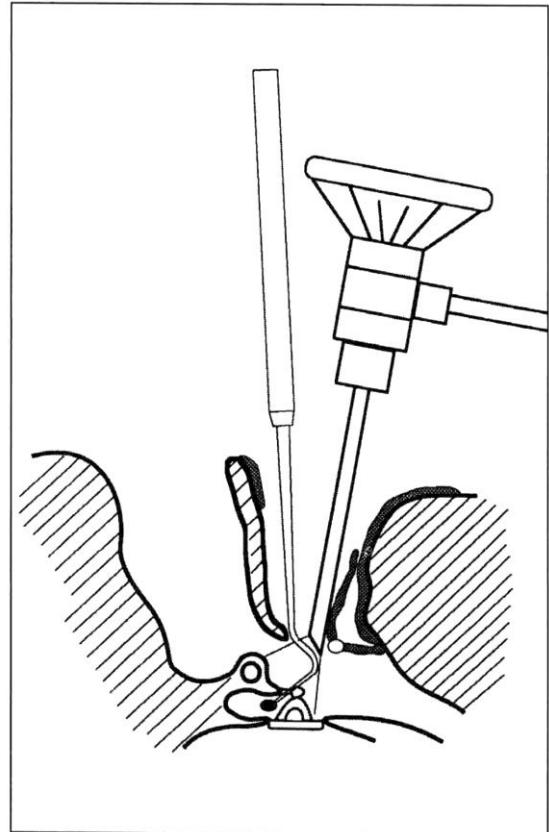
10/2009 ►

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Cartilage ➔

10/2009 ►





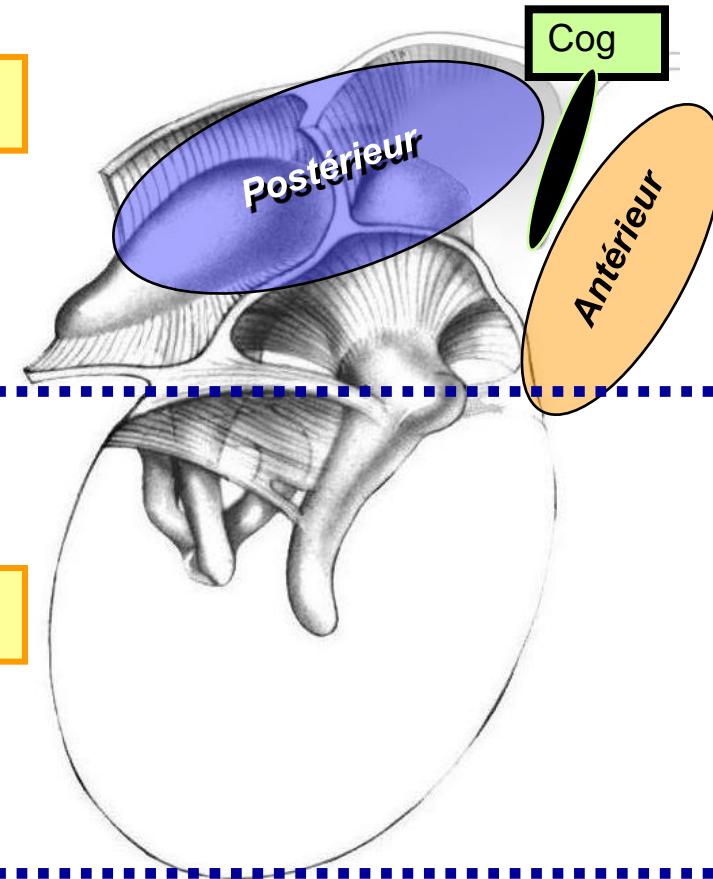
# CLASSIFICATION OF CHOLESTEATOMA

## Epitympanic cholesteatoma

- Lateral
- Anterior
- Posterior

## Mésotympanic cholesteatoma

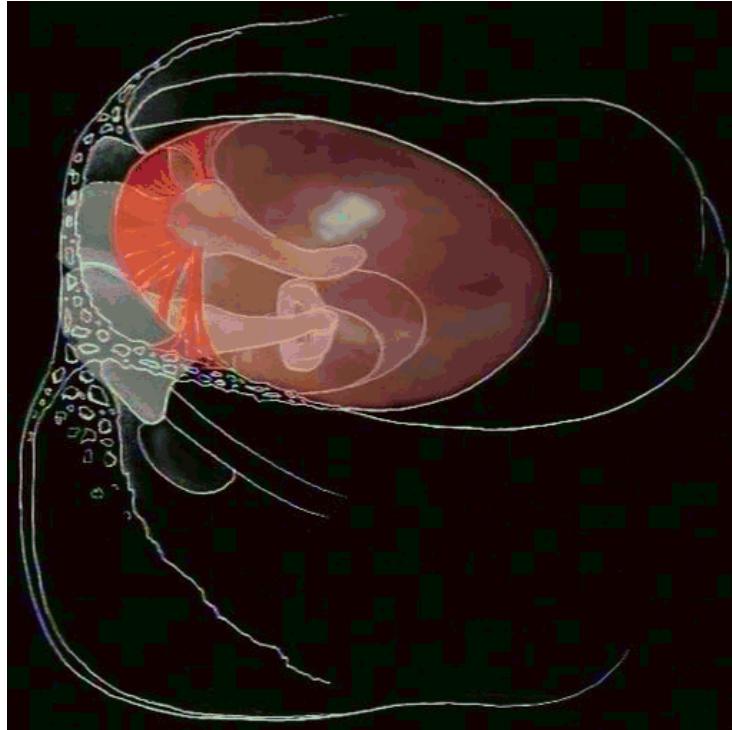
## Hypotympanic cholesteatoma



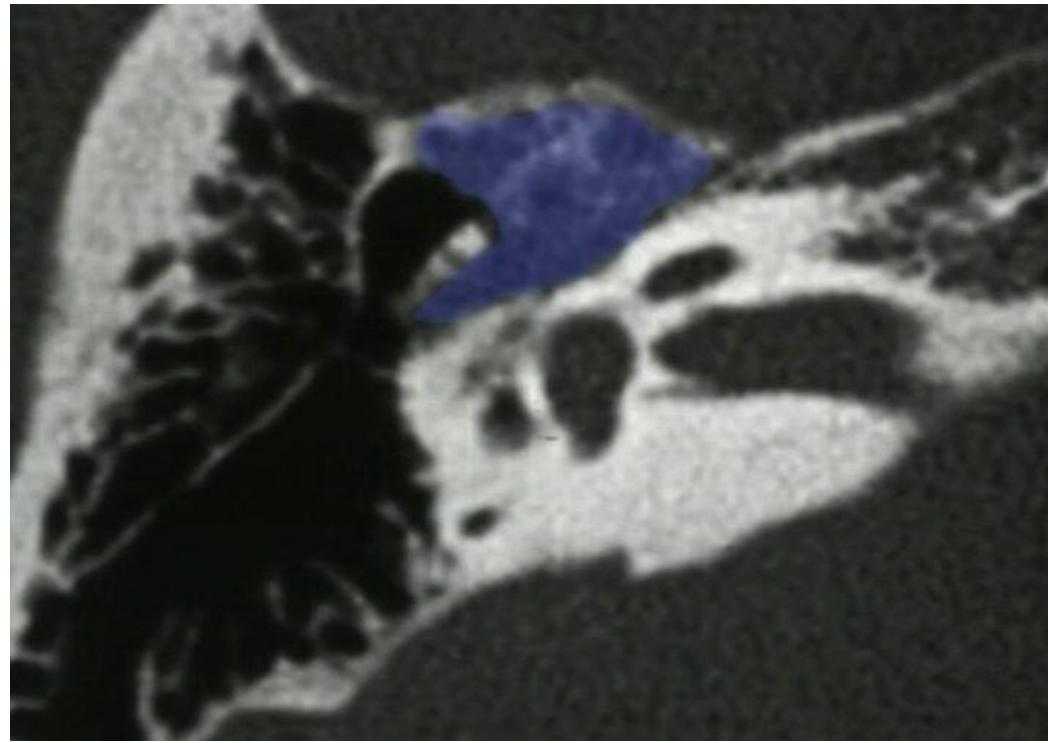
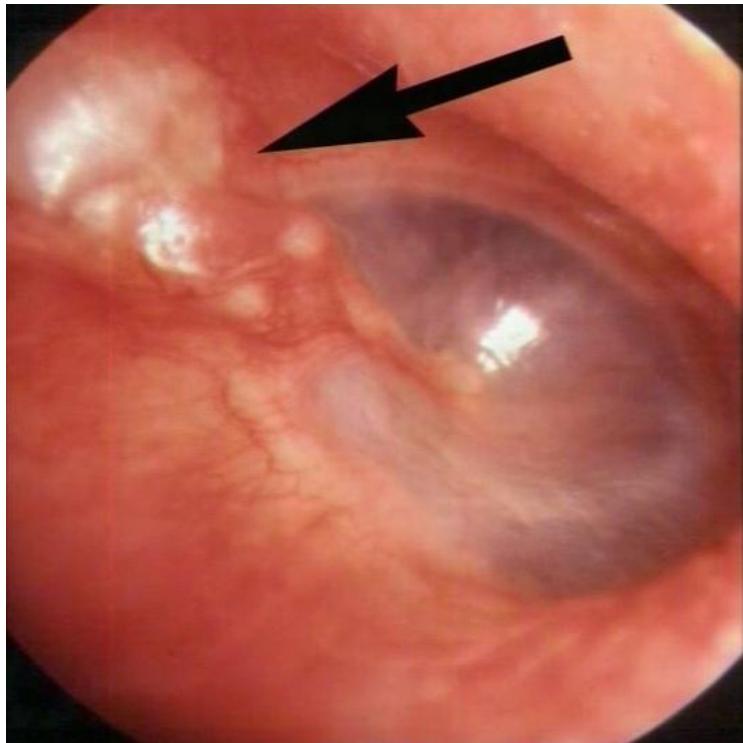
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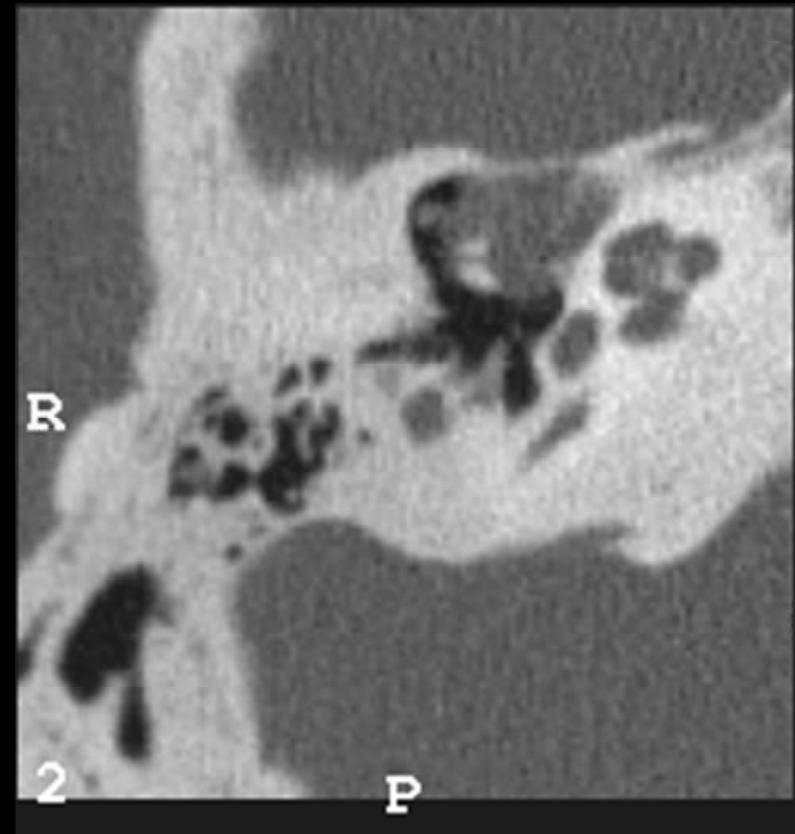
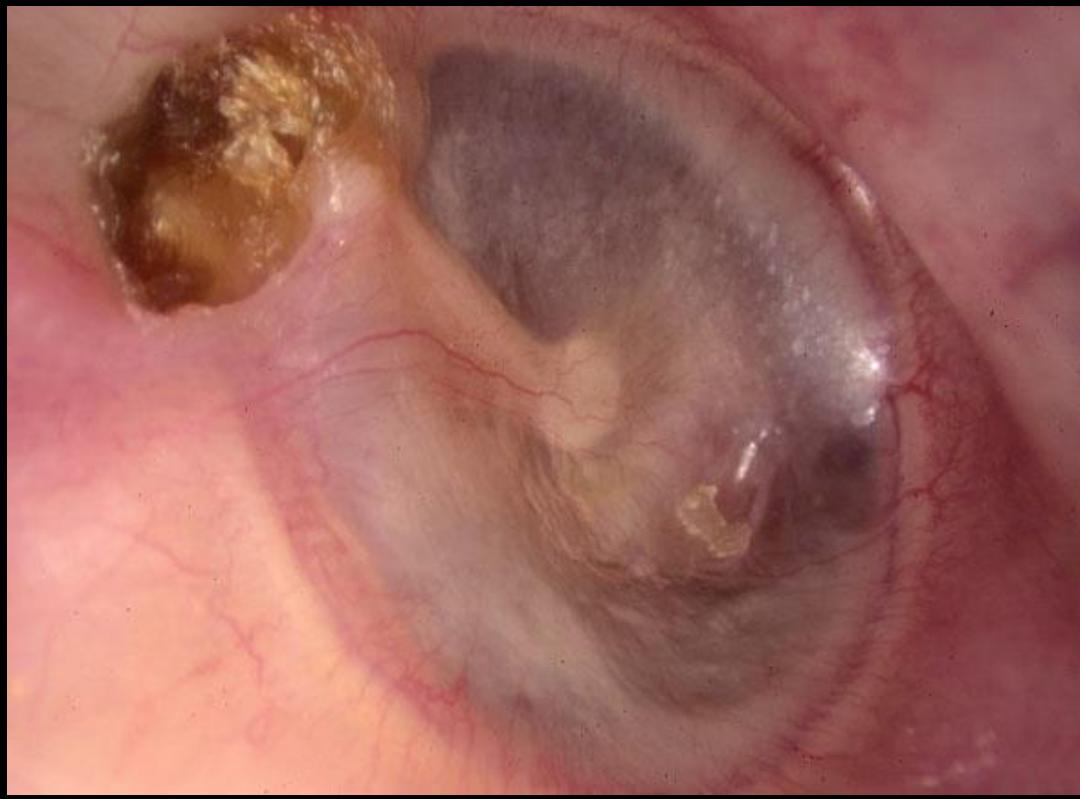
# ANTERIOR EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA

- The route of cholesteatoma is anterior to the malleus head with an extension into the supratubal recess. Facial nerve dysfunction may occur with these lesions.



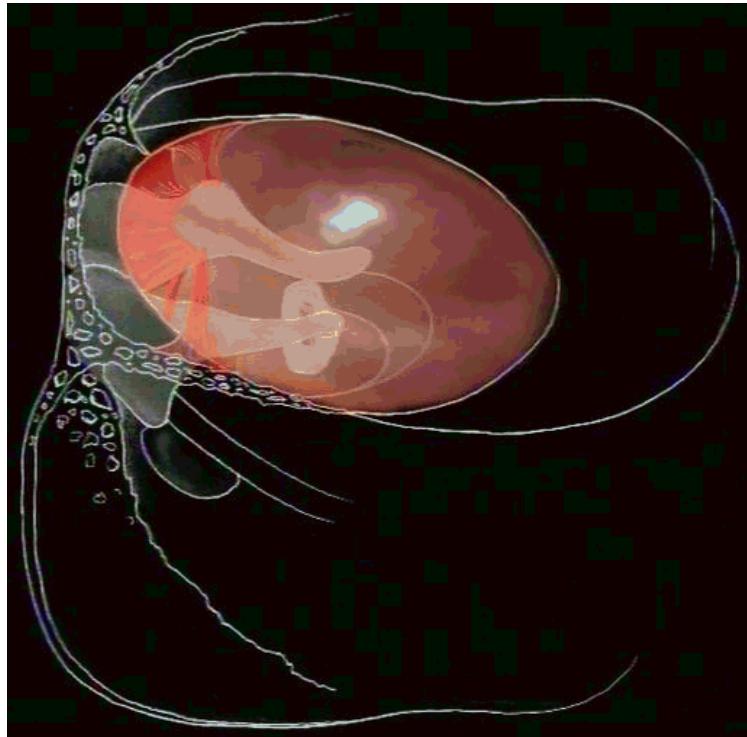
# ANTERIOR EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA



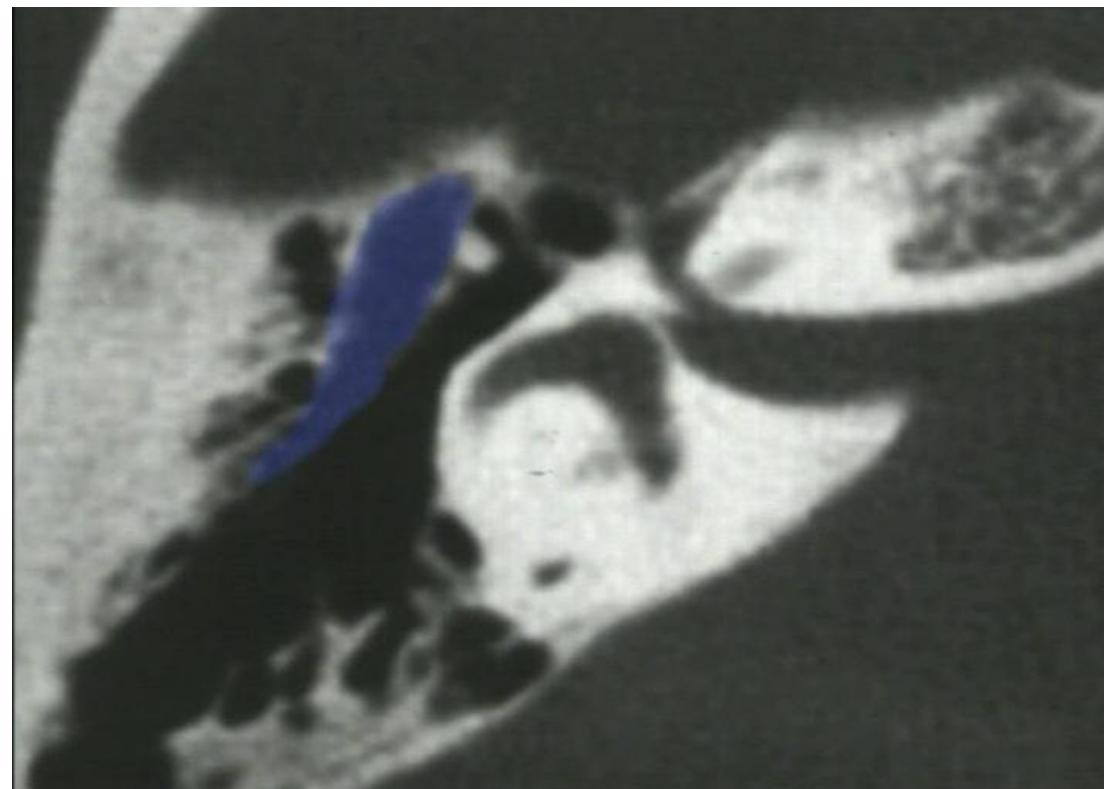
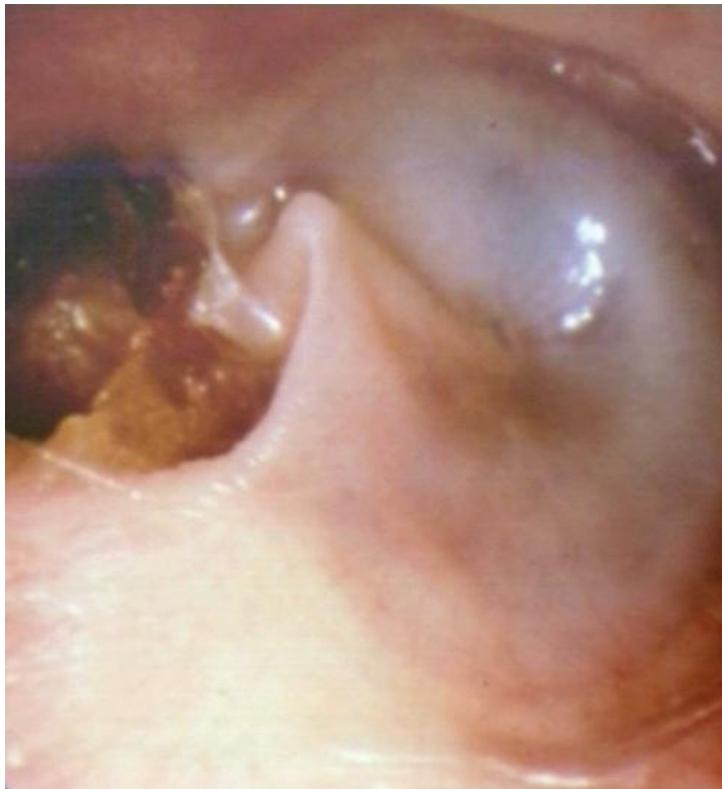


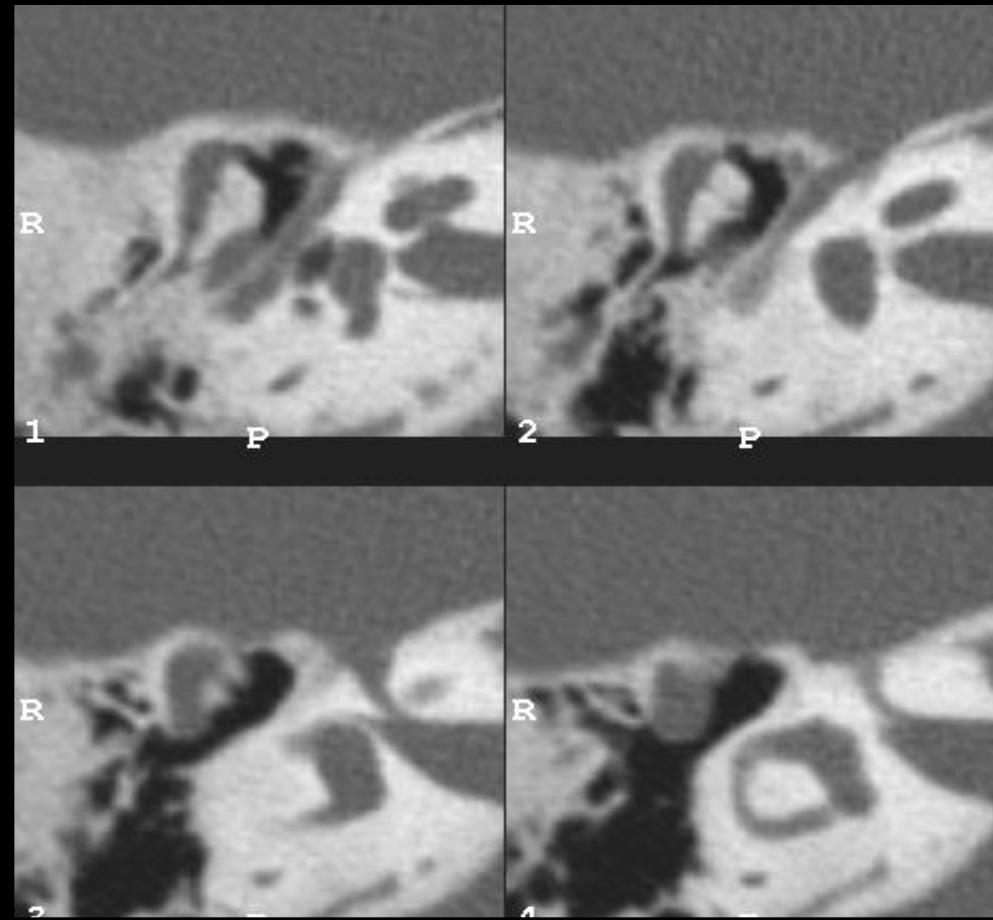
# POSTERIOR EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA

- From Prussack's space the cholesteatoma passes through the superior incudal space lateral to the incus body and then traverses the aditus and antrum to enter the mastoid.



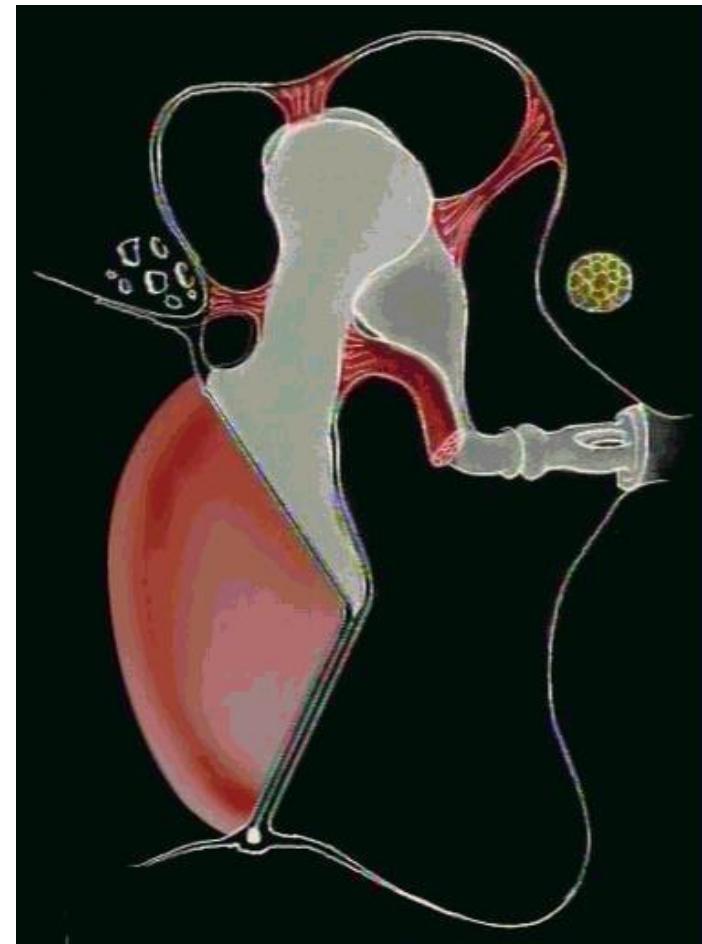
# **POSTERIOR EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA**



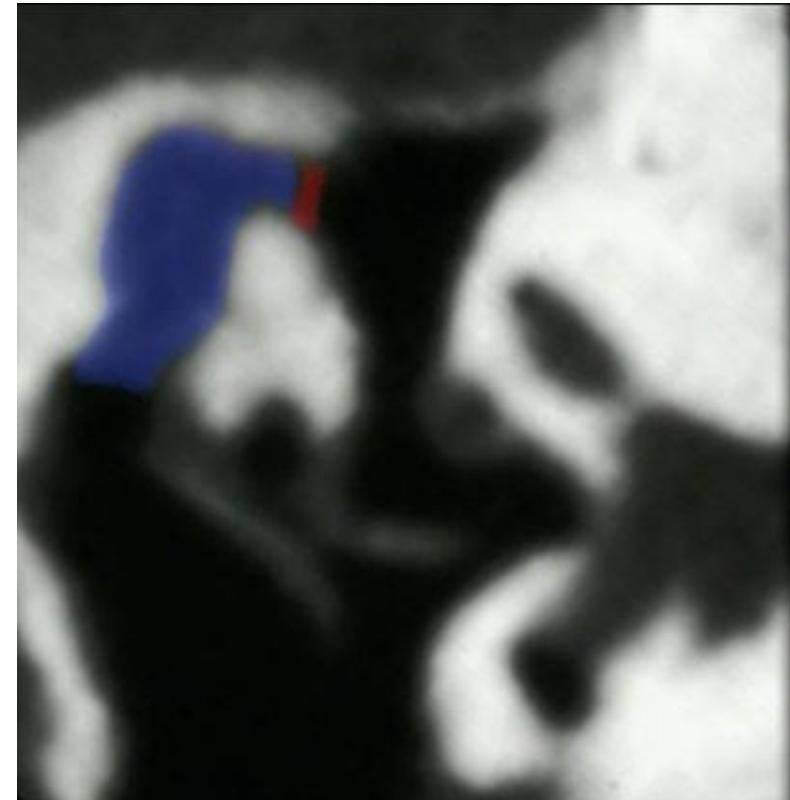
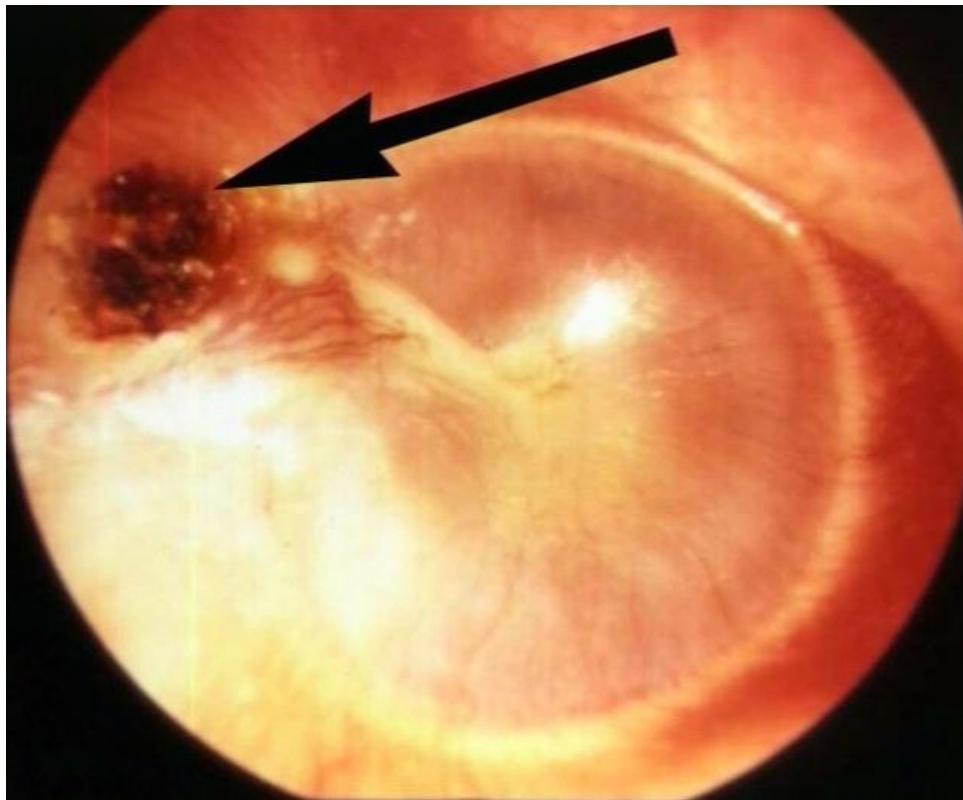


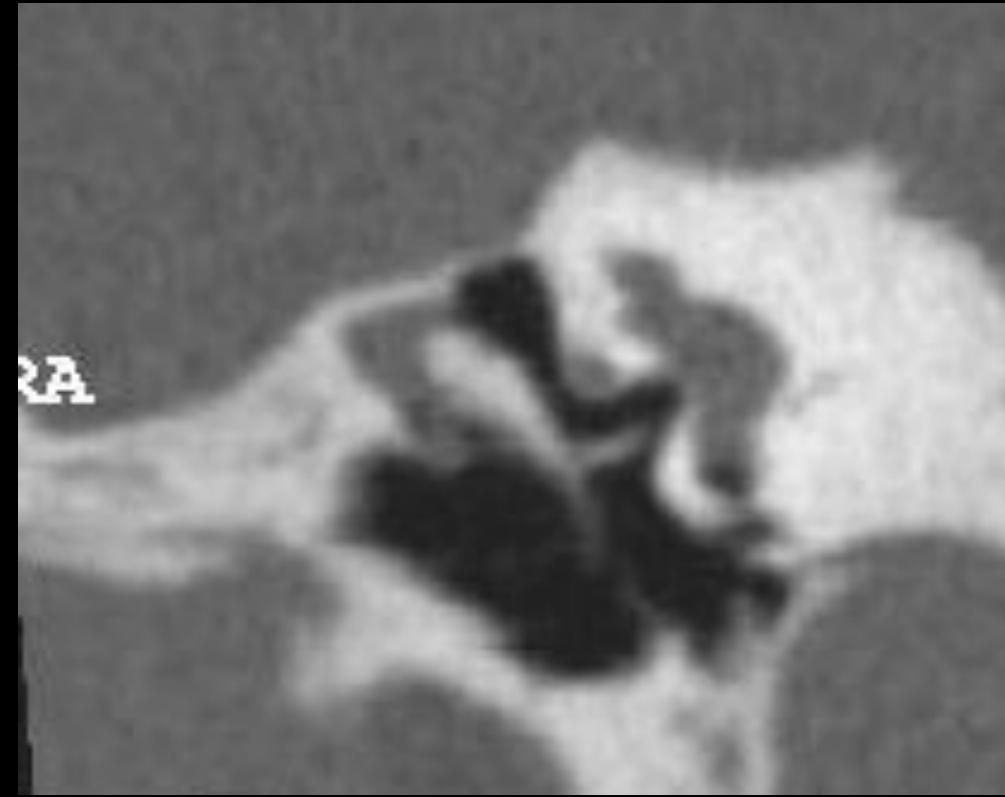
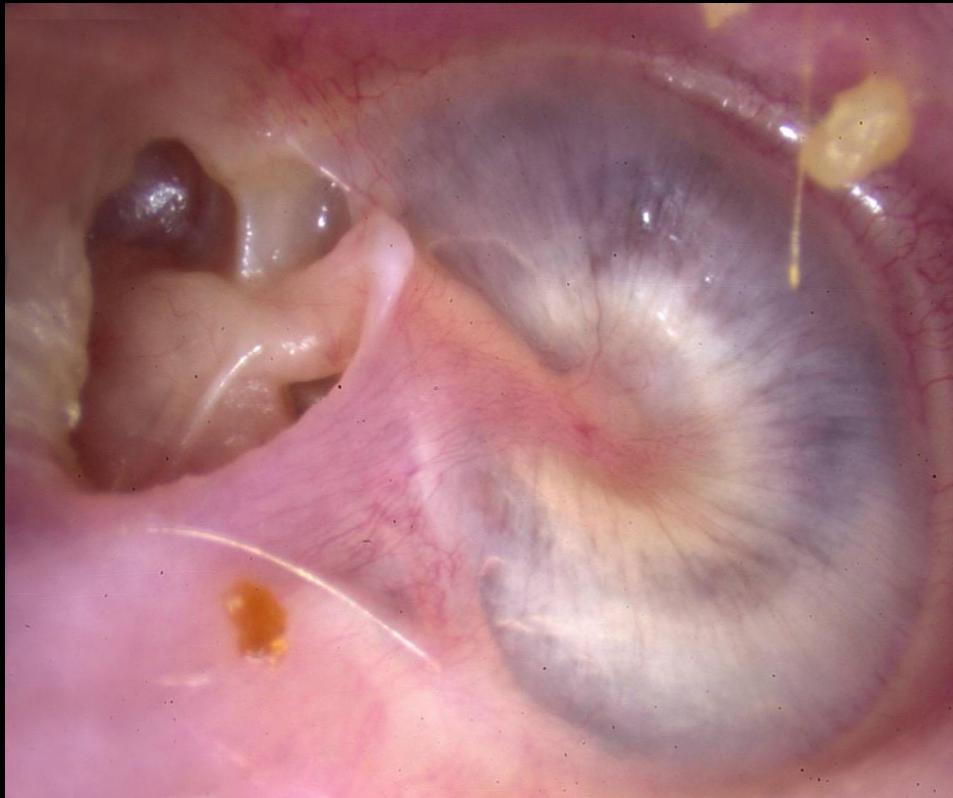
# LATERAL EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA

- The cholesteatoma is located between the pars flaccida of the tympanic membrane and the neck of the malleus.



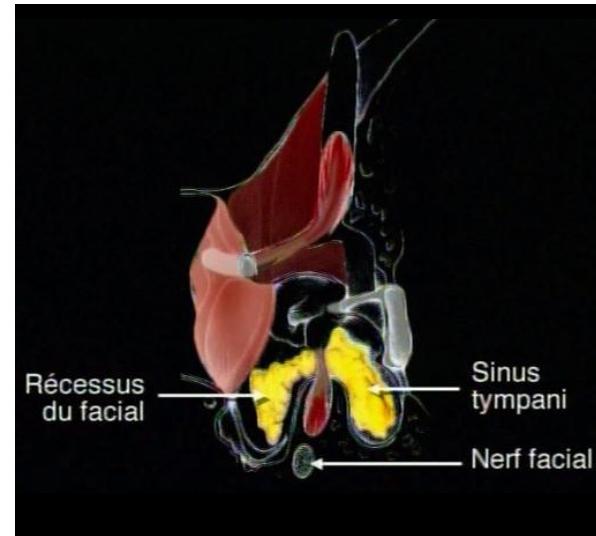
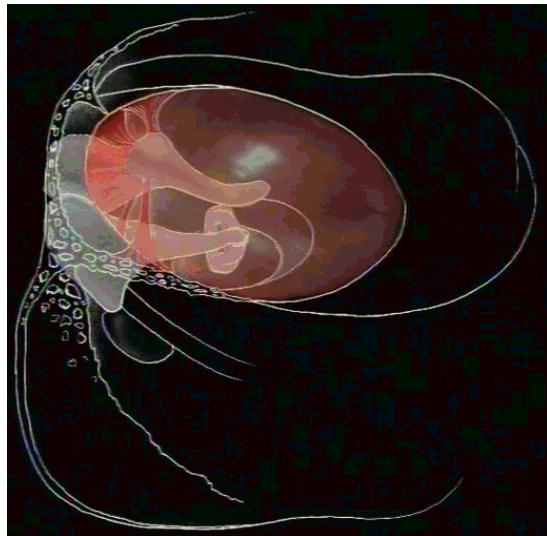
# LATERAL EPITYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA





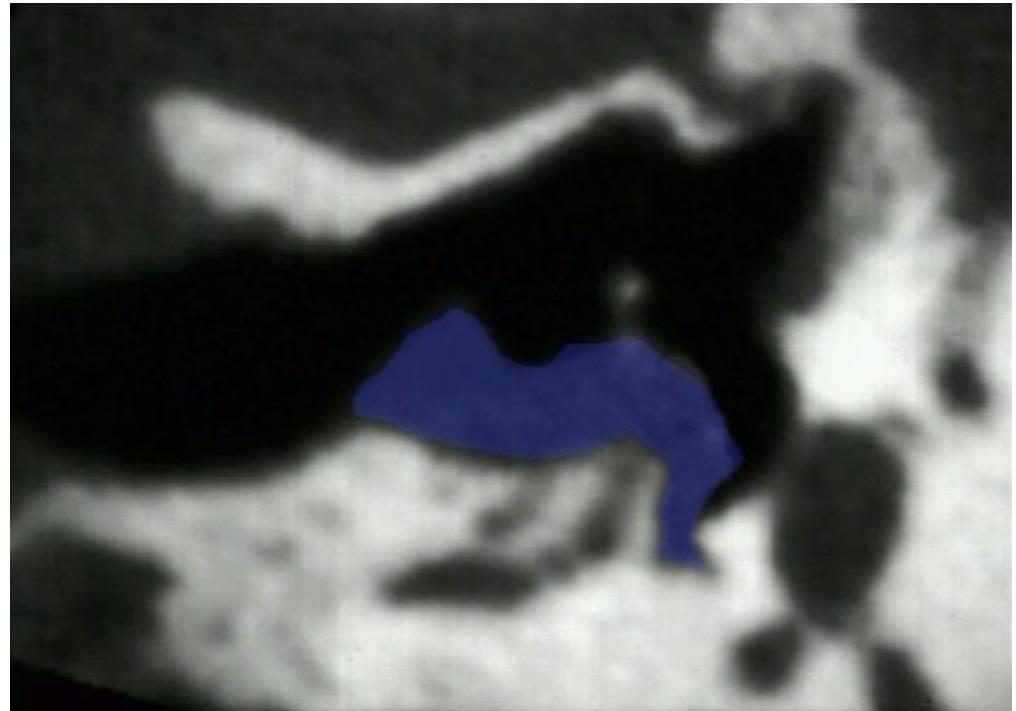
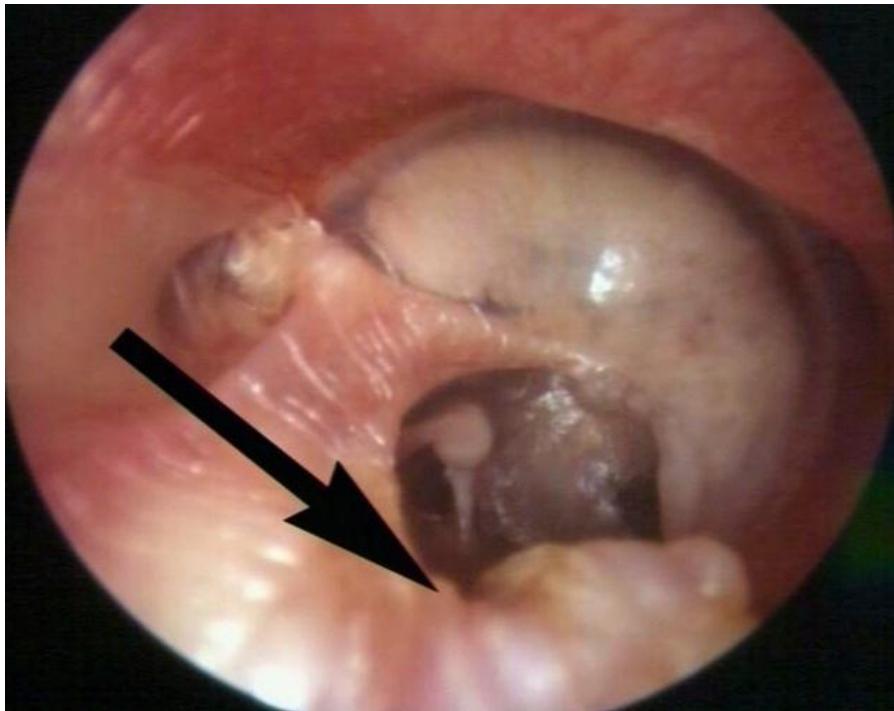
# MESOTYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA

- The posterior portion of the pars tensa retracts into the mesotympanum and involves the sinus tympani and the facial recess.



- Type 1 : The facial recess
- Type 2 : The sinus tympani and the facial recess

# MESOTYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA





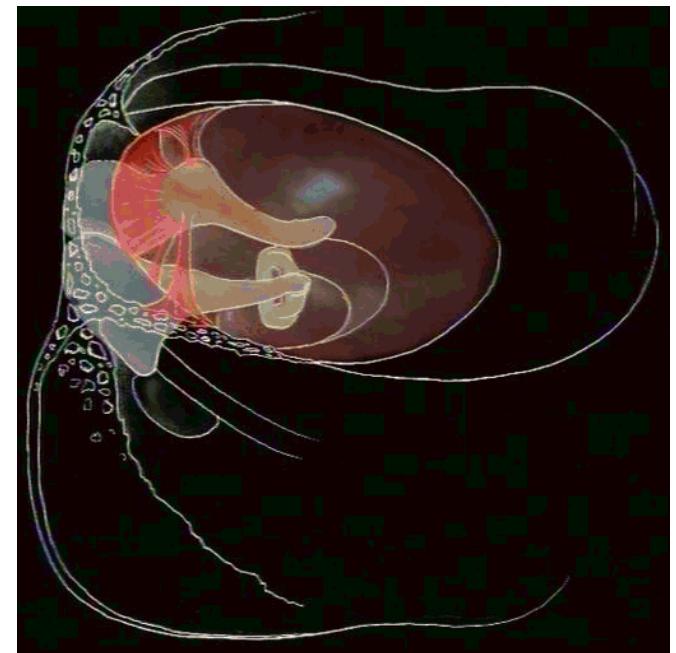
# HOLOTYMPANIC CHOLESTEATOMA

Extension of a posterior mesotympanic

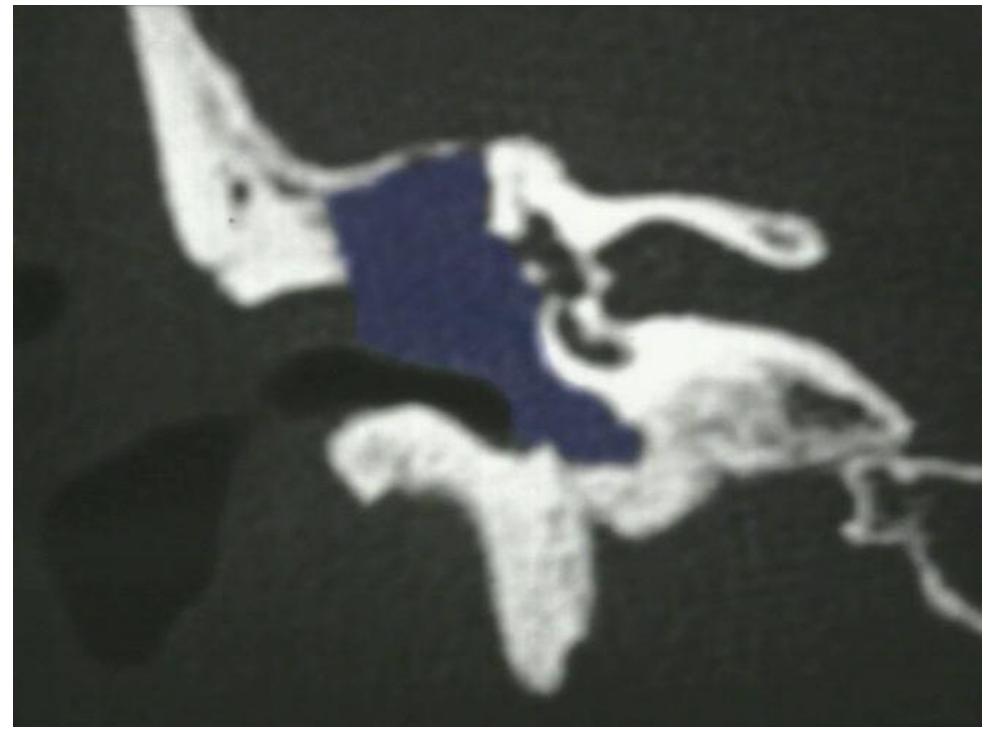
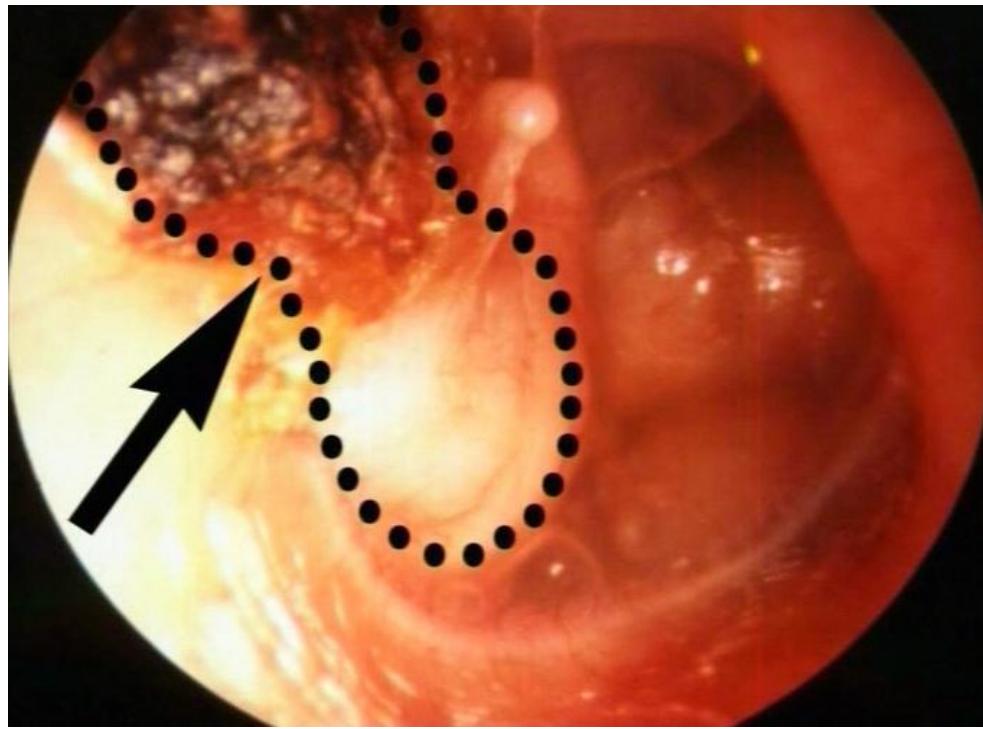
- Cholesteatoma to the mastoid

Extension of an epitympanic

- Cholesteatoma in the mesotympanum



# HOLOTYMpanic CHOLESTEATOMA



# THE DIFFERENT SURGICAL TECHNIQUES



## Intact canal wall up – Closed technique

- Transcanal epitympanotomy
- CWU with anterior epitympanotomy
- CWU with posterior tympanotomy
- Combined approach

## Canal wall down – Open technique

## Obliteration technique

# **SURGICAL APPROACH ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF CHOLESTEATOMA**



Lateral epitympanic cholesteatoma

→ **Transcanal epitympanotomy**

Posterior and anterior epitympanic cholesteatoma

→ **CWU with anterior tympanotomy**

Mesotympanic cholesteatoma

→ **CWU with posterior tympanotomy**

Holotympanic cholesteatoma

→ **Open technique or combined approach**

# CHOLESTEATOMA AND SURGICAL STRATEGY



Lateral epitympanic cholesteatoma



Transcanal epitympanotomy



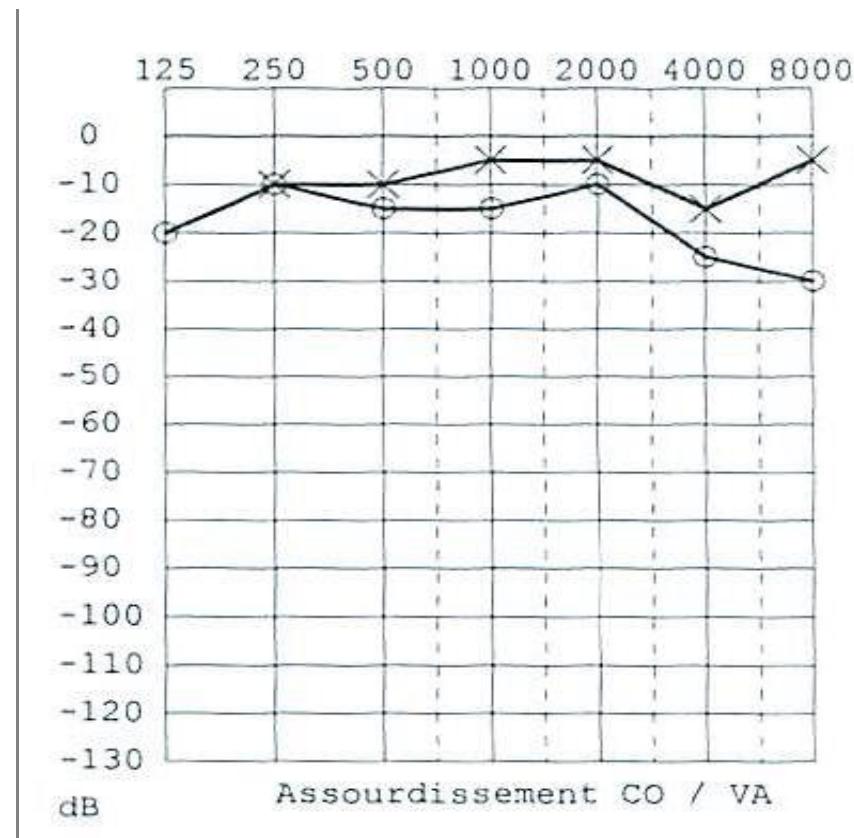
- An endaural incision is performed
- The superior part of the external auditory canal is drilled to visualize the lateral epitympanum
- Reconstruction of the lateral attic wall with bone or cartilage

# RECONSTRUCTION ATTICALE

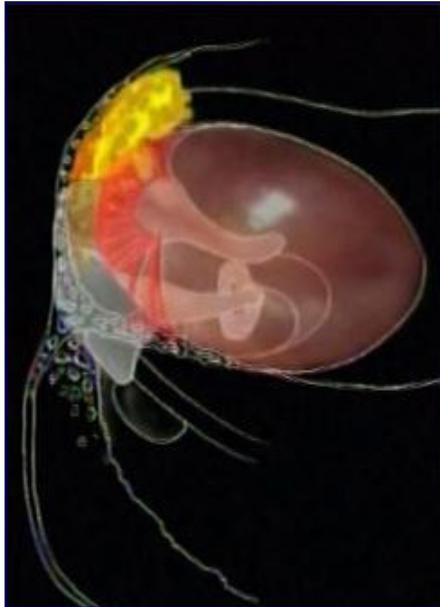
## ■ Cartilage fin



# TECHNIQUE



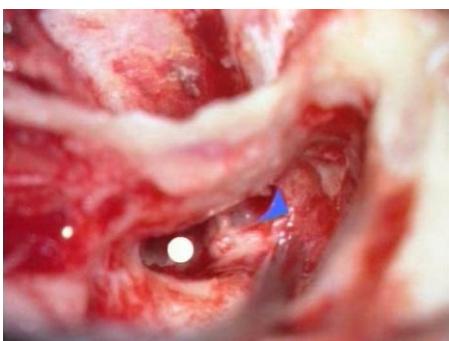
# CHOLESTEATOMA AND SURGICAL STRATEGY



Anterior and posterior  
epitympanic cholesteatoma

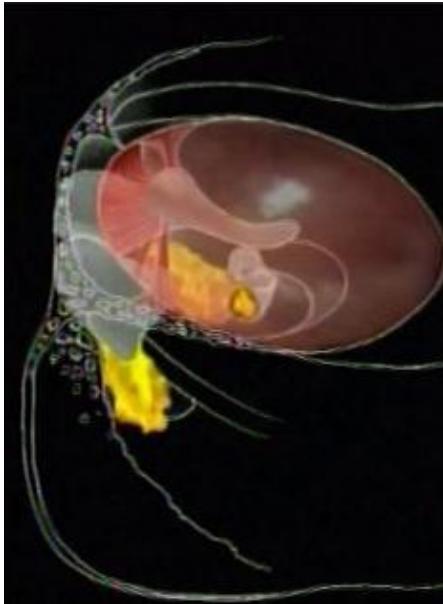


Canal wall up technique with  
anterior epitympanotomy



- *Removal of the incus, head of the malleus, attic bony plate, tensor fold*
  - *To improve accessibility*
  - *To create a new aeration pathway from the supratubal recess to the antrum*

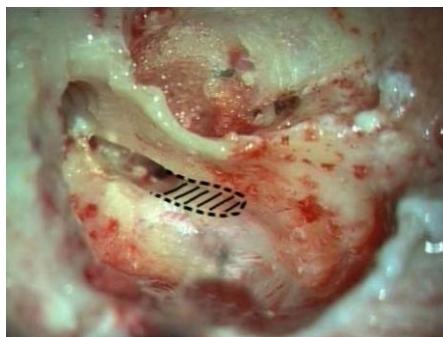
# CHOLESTEATOMA AND SURGICAL STRATEGY



Mesotympanic cholesteatoma

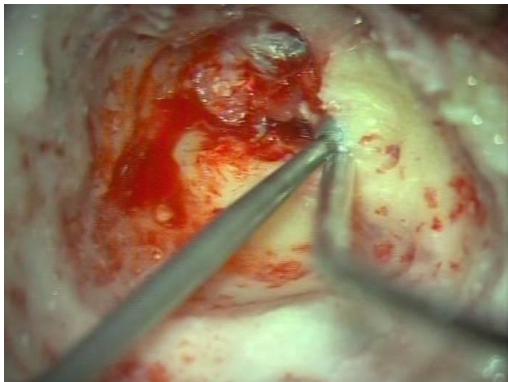
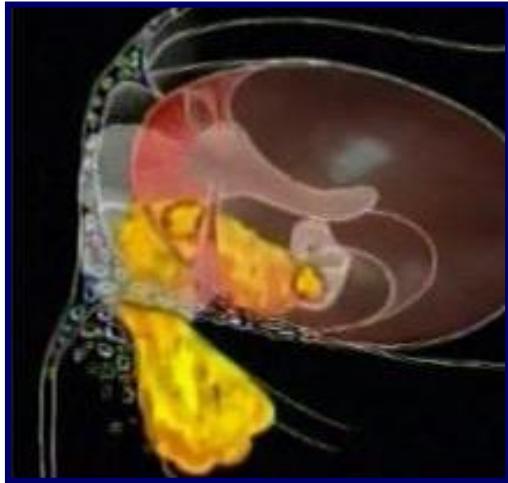


Canal wall up technique with  
posterior tympanotomy



- *Identification of the vertical (mastoid) segment of the facial nerve*
- *Opening of the facial recess and large posterior tympanotomy (extended facial recess)*

# CHOLESTEATOMA AND SURGICAL STRATEGY



Holotympanic cholesteatoma



Sclerotic  
mastoid



Open  
technique

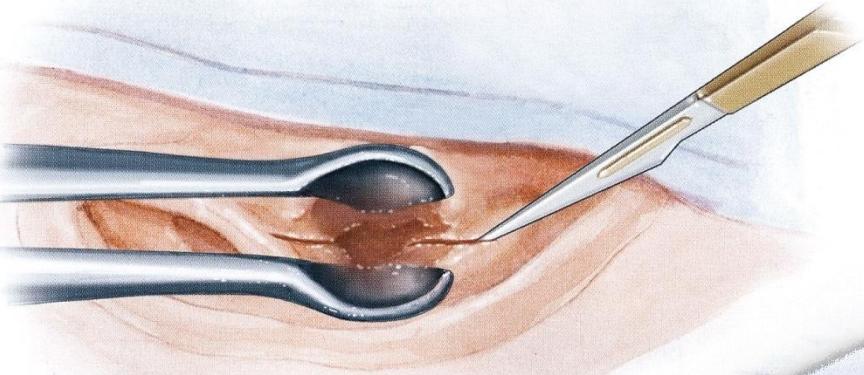


Large  
mastoid

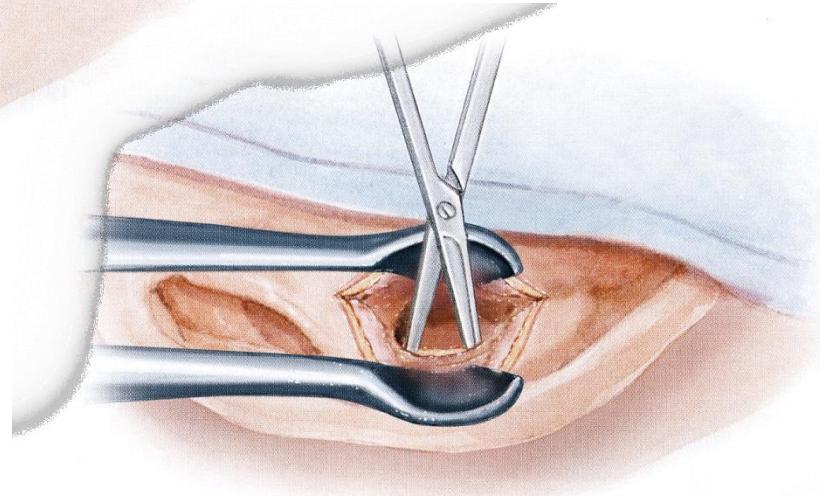


Combined approach  
Anterior and posterior  
tympanotomy

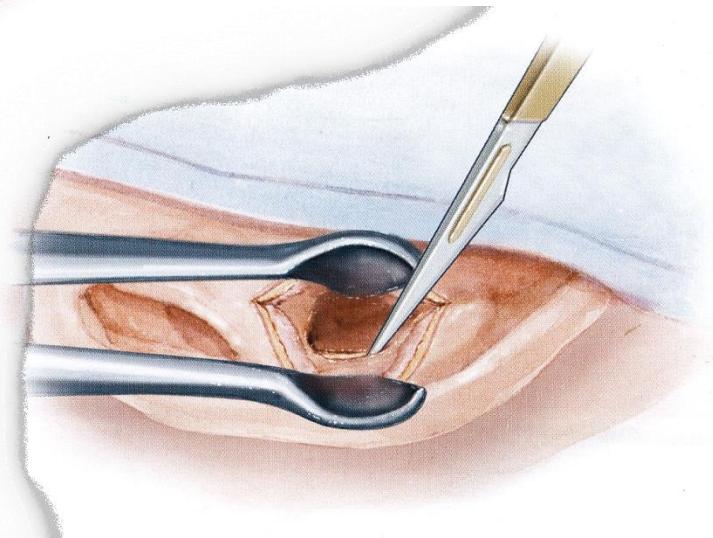
- Lateral incision



- Skin dissection



- Cartilage removal

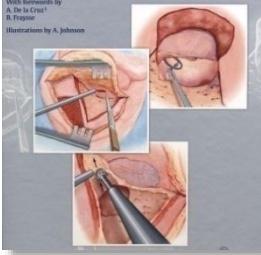


**Atlas of  
Middle Ear Surgery**

Michel Gersdorff  
Jean-Marc Gérard

Illustrations by  
A. De la Croix  
B. Frégate

Illustrations by A. Johnson



# OBLITERATIVE TECHNIQUE

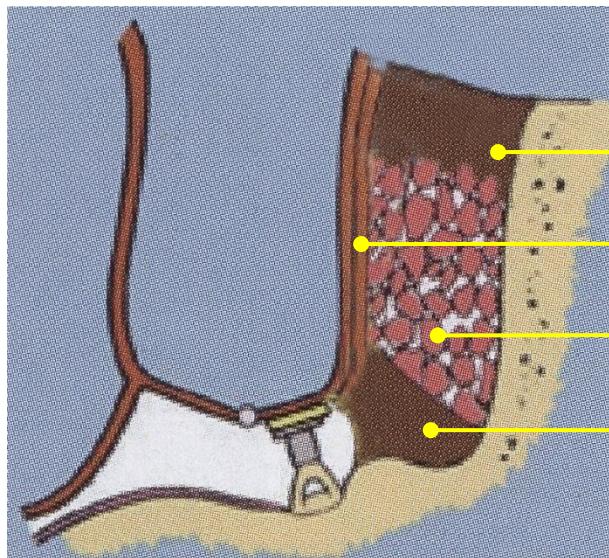


« The obliteration technique consists of meticulous reconstruction and obliteration of the mastoid »

## ■ Theoretically the obliteration technique :

- Should not permit recurrent cholesteatoma to appear (as retraction pocket) and reduced the number of residual cholesteatoma due to the wide exposure
- Should avoid the disadvantage of open cavity :
  - ➔ recurrent infection
  - ➔ water intolerance
  - ➔ caloric induced vertigo
  - ➔ difficulty to wear hearing aid

# OBLITERATIVE TECHNIQUE

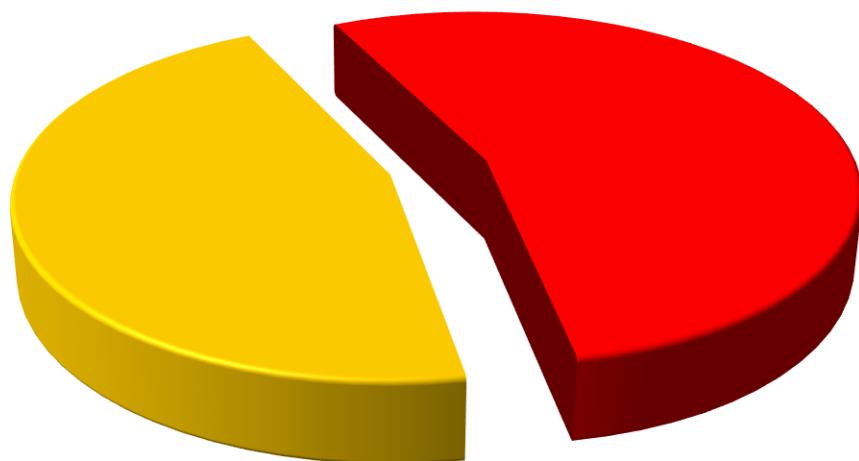


- FELDMANN 1978
- MERKE 1987
- GANTZ 2005
- VERCROYSE 2008

# SURGICAL PROCEDURE

717 cases

- Canal wall up technique (Closed technique)  
587 (82 %)



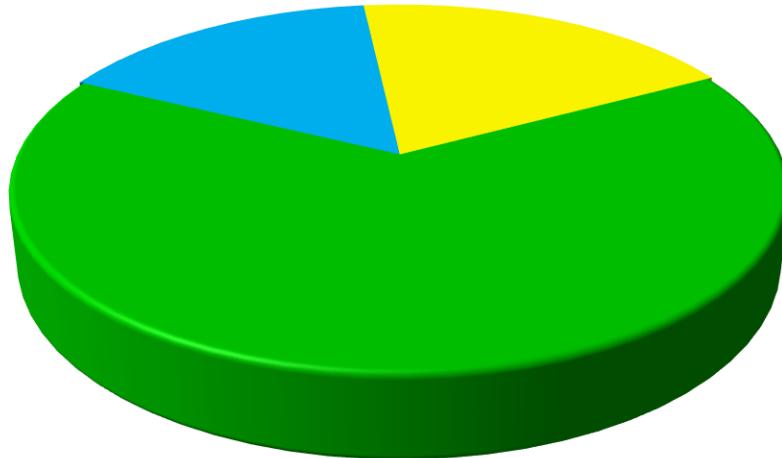
- Open technique  
130 (18 %)

# SURGICAL PROCEDURE CLOSED TECHNIQUE

587 cases

■ Posterior tympanotomy  
(16 %)

■ Anterior tympanotomy  
(19 %)

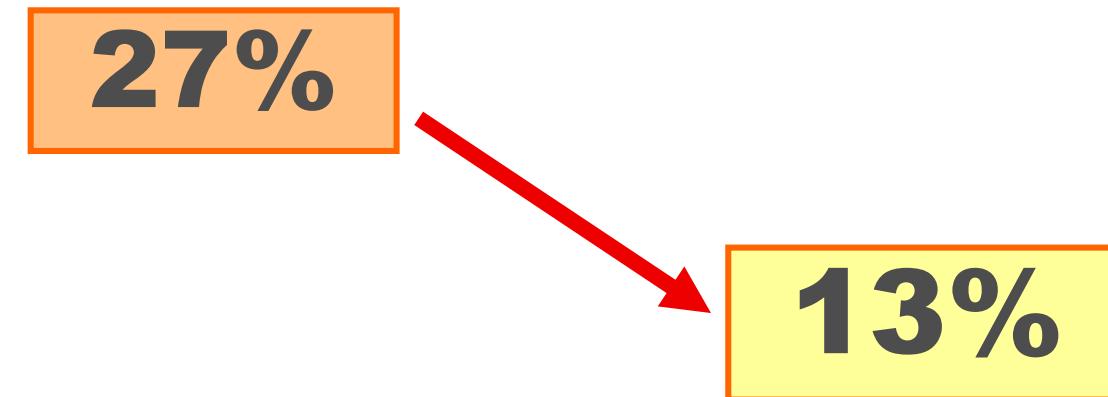


■ Combined approach : anterior & posterior  
(65 %)

# RESULTS

## Residual cholesteatoma

- By selecting the most appropriate approach the percentage of residual cholesteatoma decrease





**SFORL**  
SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE  
D'ORL ET DE CHIRURGIE  
DE LA FACE ET DU COU

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*Thank you for your attention*