

## THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL EXAMINATION OF PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC SUPPURATIVE OTITIS MEDIA

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### Introduction

Chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM) is a persistent inflammatory disease of the middle ear characterized by recurrent or continuous otorrhea through a perforated tympanic membrane and is a leading cause of preventable hearing impairment. The condition remains highly prevalent in developing regions and is associated with delayed diagnosis, frequent relapses, and a wide spectrum of extracranial and intracranial complications. Clinical manifestations of CSOM are often variable and may not fully reflect the extent of pathological changes within the middle ear and mastoid system. Therefore, reliance on symptoms alone can lead to underestimation of disease severity. A comprehensive clinical examination plays a critical role in accurate diagnosis, evaluation of disease extent, identification of complications, and selection of appropriate therapeutic strategies, ultimately improving functional and anatomical outcomes.

### Objective

The objective of this study was to assess the practical significance of comprehensive clinical examination in patients with chronic suppurative otitis media and to determine its role in optimizing diagnosis, treatment planning, and prevention of complications.

### Materials and Methods

The study was carried out at the Departments of Otorhinolaryngology No. 1 and No. 2 of Samarkand State Medical University. Patients diagnosed with chronic suppurative otitis media were included in the analysis. All patients underwent a standardized comprehensive clinical evaluation, including detailed medical history focusing on disease duration, frequency of exacerbations, previous treatments, and associated auditory and vestibular symptoms. Physical examination consisted of otoscopic and otomicroscopic assessment of the external auditory canal and tympanic membrane to identify the type and location of perforation, presence of granulation tissue, cholesteatoma, and character of middle ear discharge. Additional evaluation included assessment of Eustachian tube function, examination of the nasopharynx, and neurological screening to detect early signs of complications. Audiological tests, including pure tone audiometry and speech audiometry, were used to determine hearing status. The collected clinical data were analyzed to evaluate the diagnostic and therapeutic value of a comprehensive examination approach.

### Results

Comprehensive clinical examination enabled accurate differentiation between mucosal and cholesteatomatous forms of CSOM. Early signs of ossicular chain damage, attic pathology, and hidden cholesteatoma were identified in a significant number of patients who had minimal subjective complaints. Audiological assessment revealed varying degrees of conductive and mixed hearing loss, which correlated with clinical findings such as perforation size, disease

duration, and presence of granulation tissue. Patients who underwent complete evaluation received more targeted treatment strategies, including timely surgical referral, resulting in reduced recurrence rates and improved hearing outcomes. The comprehensive approach also facilitated early detection of potentially life-threatening complications.

### Discussion

The results demonstrate that comprehensive clinical examination is essential in the management of chronic suppurative otitis media. CSOM often progresses silently, and limited examination may overlook critical pathological changes. Detailed otomicroscopy and systematic evaluation of adjacent anatomical structures significantly enhance diagnostic accuracy. Integration of clinical and audiological findings allows individualized treatment planning and improves prognosis. These findings align with current evidence emphasizing that early identification of disease extent and complications through comprehensive assessment is key to preventing irreversible hearing loss and serious sequelae.

### Conclusion

Comprehensive clinical examination has significant practical value in the management of patients with chronic suppurative otitis media. It ensures accurate diagnosis, guides appropriate therapeutic decision-making, and enables early detection of complications. Routine implementation of a thorough clinical evaluation protocol contributes to improved treatment outcomes, preservation of hearing function, and reduction of disease-related morbidity.

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