



Tympanic Temperature Measurement



1 Preparing for the procedure

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Introduce self and obtain verbal consent.
- Attach disposable probe cover and press firmly until probe cover engages.
- Ensure sufficient battery charge prior to patient use.
- Turn patient's head to one side and stabilise head.



2 Performing the procedure

- Pull pinna upward and backward. For paediatric assessment, pull pinna down and backward.
- Centre probe and gently advance into ear canal, ensuring a firm seal with probe directed towards tympanic membrane.
- Press and hold temperature button until temperature reading displays.
- Remove thermometer.
- Discard probe cover.
- Perform hand hygiene.



3 Documentation

- Document all relevant information.
- Report abnormal findings.



Background

Measurement of body temperature is commonly measured through use of a tympanic thermometer. Tympanic thermometers are commonly available in clinical settings and must be used according to manufacturer's instructions.

Equipment required

- Hand sanitiser
- Tympanic thermometer
- Disposable probe cover

References

Smith S, Duell D, Martin B. Clinical Nursing Skills: Basic to Advanced Skills. 8th ed. New Jersey: Pearson Education 2012.

Tollefson J. Clinical Psychomotor Skills: Assessment Tools for Nursing Students. 5th ed. Melbourne: Cengage Learning Australia; 2012.

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Please visit the website for more videos and additional information.



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