

**Blue Power Ear Treatment** [www.ItsForTheAnimals.com](http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com)  
*It's For The Animals! Natural Care & Resources* by Helen L. McKinnon  
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The following information is an excerpt from the book, *"It's For The Animals! Natural Care & Resources"* by Helen L. McKinnon <http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com>

----- **EAR PROBLEMS** -----

***First: Relieve the pain. Then: Address the Cause to Restore Health***

**BLUE POWER EAR TREATMENT**

**said to be up to 99% EFFECTIVE**

Until I knew better, all of my dogs and cats were fed half-homemade food and half-commercial stuff. In 1995, I eliminated the commercial feed so that their diet was *exclusively homemade food*. Prior to changing the diet to "Helen's Big Batch Recipe" and other real food additions such as raw chicken necks, I would see a lot of 'brown or black gunk' in my dogs' and cats' ears.

Fortunately, though, *they've never had any ear infections -- and my dogs and cats are fed homemade food, which includes organic grains*. For those

whose dogs may have ear problems, the following information, excerpted from the book, *It's For The Animals! Natural Care & Resources* and the Web Site <http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com> may prove very useful.

Let's remember that pain relief is crucial, and the response to the famous Blue Power Ear Treatment has been phenomenal. People have shared their experience in using the Blue Power Ear Treatment, stating that having this information has even saved their dog's lives.

Following the old adage, '*an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*', **it is very important to address the actual cause of the ear problem, not just treat the symptoms (i.e., ear infections)**. The reason that I've brought up all this background about feeding fresh foods is because I believe that the primary reason that my dogs and cats don't have ear problems is because they are *only* fed fresh, homemade food. One holistic vet said that when preparing our own dinner, "Make an extra plate for your dog, so long as it's not junk food."

Well, feeding my crew that way was just too much, and besides which, I didn't cook every night. Therefore, determined to develop a practical, easy way to make homemade food in bulk, I experimented and finally came up with my original "Helen's Big Batch Recipe" which is in the earlier section of this book, [\*It's For The Animals! Natural Care & Resources\*](#). The only foods that I avoid feeding my dogs are onions and chocolate. You don't have to feed everything raw and, in fact, some animals cannot handle all raw foods. Experts I've interviewed recommend feeding meats and veggies that are *lightly cooked* with organic grains such as rice, rolled oats and flaked barley. Details that are more helpful are included later on about incorporating holistic methods to improve health and prevent problems.

**Please do NOT substitute, change, or eliminate any ingredients or instructions! The reason that this treatment has been so effective is because THESE ingredients and THESE instructions were utilized!** As with many health remedies, new information is being known all the time, and so, please check for any updates on the Blue Power Ear Treatment at the Web Site: <http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com>

The fact is ear infections can be excruciatingly painful! I had one myself after swimming in a pond as a kid. We can only guess how awful it is for our dogs to deal with an ear infection because of their sensitive ears. As I said, I have not had to use the Blue Power Ear Treatment; however, for nearly 50 years it has been used successfully and *is very effective when used as instructed*. Some folks also utilize other formulas for the ears too, and just a reminder -- that if using Tree Tea oil, it should always be very diluted in another oil such as jojoba or olive oil, and not used on cats because it is toxic to them.

The original limited information on the Blue Power Ear Treatment was handed down from a wonderful veterinarian, now long deceased. How it came to him is unknown. Many people have found it also effective for cuts, fungus between toes, and small tumor-like cysts, however, ***the treatment MUST be done faithfully as instructed***. Please, avoid the "shock" of a cold solution, remember, the ears are *very* sensitive, so your dog will appreciate having it warmed up a bit. Rather than using a microwave, I've found that the best way to warm up a solution is to place it in a cup or glass of very warm water (as a 'bath') for about a half hour or so.

## **Blue Power Ear Treatment**

***Caution:** please have your veterinarian evaluate your dog's ear drum prior to treating the ear problem yourself. Be certain that the ear drum is NOT ruptured, as there could be the risk of irreversible deafness or loss of equilibrium. Your vet can rule out the presence of tumors or foreign bodies such as foxtails. A microscope smear would reveal bacteria, yeast or mites and then a culture and sensitivity test can be performed.*

### **INGREDIENTS:**

**16 Oz. bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol (standard 70%)**

**4 Tablespoons of Boric Acid Powder**

**16 Drops of Gentian Violet Solution 1%** (see end of article for more information)

**Mix together in alcohol bottle and shake well.**

You will need to shake solution every time you use it to disperse the Boric Acid Powder. Purchase a flexible plastic bottle with the opening at the top so that the solution may be gently squeezed out and dispense solution to affected ears. The ideal is a hair-dye bottle available at a pharmacy, Wal-Mart, Target, etc, or a beauty supply store.

### **TREATMENT PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Evaluate condition of ears before treating and if very inflamed and sore: do not attempt to pull hair or clean out ear at all. Just flush and then wait until inflammation has subsided, which will be about two days.**
- 2) Warm the solution (as instructed above) and shake the bottle each time before using it for treatment,.**
- 3) Flood the ear with solution (gently squirt bottle).**
- 4) Massage gently to the count of 60, wipe with a tissue.**
- 5) *On first treatment:* flood the ear twice, wipe with a tissue, and leave alone without massage.**
- 6) The dog will shake out the excess, which can be wiped with a tissue.**

***Note:** the Gentian Violet does stain fabrics, etc. so you may want to wear gloves.*

**The SCHEDULE of treatment is as follows:**

- Treat **TWICE** a day for the first week to two weeks, depending upon severity of ears.
- After the second or third day you can clean out the ear with a Q-tip or cotton balls (see *caution* below).
- Treat **ONCE** a day for the next 1-2 weeks.
- Treat **ONCE** a month (or even less frequently, depending on the dog).

**Caution:** When using a Q-tip, only insert it as far into the ear canal as you can actually see. Use care to prevent the gunk from falling down into the ear canal.

*Note: All of these ingredients should be available at a pharmacy, and some will special order items for you.* One brand of the Gentian Violet 1% solution is "Humco" and the one ounce bottle typically sells for slightly over \$3. It is called an "Antiseptic First Aid Anti-infective". The Boric Acid powder in the 4 ounce size typically sells for about \$3.25 and is usually in stock at the pharmacy.

Users of the Blue Power Ear Treatment have found that, unless the dog has abraded the skin by scratching, the alcohol doesn't sting and the dog will not object to even the first treatment. The Boric Acid Powder soothes the ear. The Gentian Violet Solution is an anti-infection agent, as it is a dye mixture that acts as a bactericide, fungicide, and anthelmintic (destroys worms). Remember, **gentian violet will stain** hair, clothing, etc.

As for the source for Gentian Violet, it, along with all the other ingredients, as was previously mentioned, should be available at a pharmacy, or may have to be special ordered. The Gentian Violet comes in small bottles, similar to iodine, not at all expensive and will provide enough to make *gallons* of the Blue Power Ear Treatment. (Please see very

end of this article for more information about Gentian Violet).

A very easy method to make the formula is to poke a hole in the top of the cap of the bottle of alcohol, add the Boric Acid, and then the drops of Gentian Violet.

The Blue Power Ear Treatment *as detailed above* appears to work well on any and all ear problems from mites to wax to canker. The success rate for this treatment is said to be 95-99%. Those who do not succeed have usually not done the treatment long enough or have not been regular about it.

According to the reports, dogs on the verge of ear canal surgery have been returned to normal with only the regular follow-up treatment to keep the ear healthy.

If an infection seems to be remaining in the treated ear after the above course of treatment, there may also be some Pseudomonas bacteria in the site. This can be eradicated by using a gentle flush of raw apple cider vinegar and water (warmed). Use 2 Tablespoons of vinegar to one cup of water (warmed-up), TWICE per week.

The Blue Power Ear Treatment has been found to be effective for treating fungus-type infections on the feet and elsewhere on the dog, for cuts on dogs or people, and for hot spots. You may find other uses for this simple anti-infective agent. Remember it is **for external use only and be careful not to get into the eyes.**

One gal let me know that her dog's ear problem responded only when the Gentian Violet was omitted. Another gal, Diane Whitehouse, a Poodle fancier, states: "First, the stuff has worked miracles for us, too! I'm so glad to know about it ... the recipe I was initially given years ago called for 16 drops of **2%** Gentian Violet, rather than 1%. I've always mixed it that way, and passed that along to a couple of Poodle friends who did not have success with the recipe [with only 1% Gentian Violet] ..." In both cases, adding the additional Gentian Violet resulted in success. She adds a helpful caution: "And.....**The vet must rule out a punctured ear drum before using The Blue Power Ear Treatment.**" The one Poodle friend who told me his Poodle reacted as though treatment was very painful took his girl to the vet and learned she did have a punctured ear drum."

**For those who find the Blue Power Ear Treatment successful, I have some suggestions:** After your dog's ears are looking normal for a while, it really would be a good idea to find out what is *actually causing* the ear problem.

As mentioned earlier when I was feeding commercial feed, my dogs' and cats' ears had quite a bit of that 'black gunk' in them. In 1984, I'd been told by my holistic vet, Richard Kearns, DVM, that this was one of the body's ways of detoxifying itself. Sure enough, after

being fed *only* fresh foods for a few months, that 'black gunk' virtually disappeared.

Also, it's been my experience, and that of many others, to notice a favorable improvement in their dog's and cat's ears-- and overall health, *when the following three supplements mentioned below are added to the diet.* These nutritional supplements are just added to the food and are excellent for us too! A note about the following recommended products: there is no financial affiliation between this author and any company mentioned. The products included here are simply 'tried and true' favorites, which I feel are superior to others for a variety of reasons.

### ***Three Important Considerations Which May Be Related to Ear Problems:***

1) **Probiotics** These are commonly referred to as intestinal flora 'normalizers', Acidophilus, Lactobacillus Acidophilus, and Bifidus are what I've used. Known as the friendly bacteria, they're found in a *healthy intestinal tract* and are crucial for good health and proper absorption of nutrients. According to a recent study (Hamilton-Miller 1996), *only 2 out of 13 products had what their label claimed in viable friendly bacteria.* I buy **only the refrigerated brand** and Natren is an excellent choice.

2) **Digestive Enzymes** To my knowledge, Prozyme Digestive Enzyme formula is the *only digestive enzyme product* with peer-reviewed scientific studies to *prove* that it increases the absorption of vital nutrients (up to a 71% increase), including EFAs (Essential Fatty Acids). Prozyme comes in a powder that is sprinkled on top of the

food in the dish at dinnertime. I also sprinkle a capsule of Pancreatin (any brand) on the food for my older dog's protein digestion. First-time users of Prozyme may get a free 85-gram trial size by calling [Prozyme](http://Prozyme) at 800/522-5537, there's just a \$5 shipping and handling charge. Incidentally, Prozyme has a money-back guarantee and has a human formula, TymeZyme (capsules), which my husband and I take with each meal.

3) **Essential Fatty Acids (EFAs)** Many years ago I was researching a problem that my husband had: excessive ear wax buildup (think: brown *gunk*). It turns out that ear wax accumulation is a symptom of a deficiency of EFAs. Another symptom is 'Dry Eye'. These types of good fats (EFAs) are **critically important** for our health as well as our animals, **and must be provided in the diet**. There are lots of types of EFAs and, to keep it simple here, understand that these fats/oils are NOT for cooking. In fact, it's very important that they be kept away from light, heat, and air. Avoid partially hydrogenated fat and trans fats such as margarine.

My favorite EFAs are Nordic Naturals fish oils and [Omega Nutrition's](http://Omega Nutrition) certified organic, Hemp Seed Oil as it is said to be 'nature's perfectly balanced oil'. However, the restrictions of the government may currently prohibit shipping to the US. What is great about the Hemp Oil is that it contains omega-3 and omega-6 EFAs and the vital GLA (Gamma-Linolenic Acid) GLA is one of the omega-6 EFAs such as Borage Oil, Black Currant Oil and Evening Primrose Oil. Other companies press seeds that have been sterilized (irradiated) and then pressed into oil, which is unacceptable to me. Opt for 2nd day air delivery.

Contact Omega Nutrition:

<http://www.omeganutrition.com> or call 800/ 661-3529. Their US office is located in Bellingham, WA, and for Canadians, in Vancouver, BC. Be sure to request their very informative Product Book and Catalog which are free.

Also, another very good organic EFA blend is Barlean's Omega Twin and it's available in the refrigerated case of most health food stores or you can call 800/445-3529 for the nearest distributor.

In addition to the EFA's, I add a good amount of butter (preferably organic) in addition to broth (from cooking bones) in the water that the grains are cooked for "Helen's Big Batch Recipe".

Some people have found that their dog's ear problem was related to thyroid dysfunction. So, you may want to consider having a complete thyroid panel test through [Hemopet](http://Hemopet) and more information is available at the following: [www.itsfortheanimals.com/HEMOPET.HTM](http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/HEMOPET.HTM) 714/ 891-2022 (Pacific Time).

### **The Ears and The Body Detoxifying Connection**

I suspect the pesticide residue in the conventionally grown grains could very well be the culprit for what some folks refer to as a "grain allergy" in their dogs. Pesticides are just one of the chemicals that can be adversely affecting our companions (and us). *Seriously consider feeding only organic food and supplements.* For most of us, organic meat may not always be available or it is too expensive, and, therefore, human-grade quality is the next best choice. However, **organic grains** are readily available and the cost is only slightly higher, especially when buying in bulk.

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Since 1978, I've been following a holistic approach to health. In March of 1995, after reading Ann Martin's article in Natural Pet magazine, *Does Your Dog Food Bark? A Study of the Pet Food Fallacy*, I completely eliminated commercially manufactured feed stuff. I

just can't consider it healthy food. Remember, most animals should have this transition to fresh foods gradually. I also avoid exposure to other chemicals, including flea/tick preparations, unnecessary vaccinations, and heartworm drugs, see the following: <http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/NEWS.HTM>

**Toxins can be chemicals which may be:**

- **Absorbed either through the skin** as in topical flea/tick treatments, dips, shampoos or **through the paws** as with cleaning products, and pressure treated lumber
- **Inhaled** - room fresheners, indoor/outdoor pollution and outgassing of new carpeting.
- **Ingested** - pesticide-laden food, heartworm drugs, antibiotics, or other medications.
- **Injected** - vaccinations and other drugs. Be advised that all vaccine manufacturers' package inserts say: **"Only healthy animals should be vaccinated"**. [Even a rash, itchiness, or a slight infection means that an animal is NOT healthy and should NOT be vaccinated.](#) (please see important information and references at: [www.itsfortheanimals.com/VACCINE1.HTM](http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/VACCINE1.HTM) )

**Another factor contributing to ear infections may be [all those vaccinations](#)** that the animals are receiving, unnecessarily. Consider the fact that vaccines contain deadly toxins such as mercury, aluminum and formaldehyde. (please see additional important information and references at: [www.itsfortheanimals.com/OVRVAC.HTM](http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/OVRVAC.HTM)) Since 1994, my animals have NOT received those [notorious annual](#)

["booster" vaccinations](#) because I'd read the quote from from *Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy*, Volume XI "A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification is annual revaccinations."<sup>1</sup> By becoming educated and making the changes for the better, I know that it has helped my companion animals to be healthier and happier.

**Some Helpful Alternatives Used For Ear Problems Passed Along:**

As a suggestion, you may want to read some helpful information about ear problems at the following link: <http://animalpetdoctor.homestead.com/Ears.html> Also, Zymox, is an enzymatic medication available from veterinarians, which Roger Ross, DVM calls a "Miracle Ear Cleaning Product": <http://animalpetdoctor.homestead.com/Zymox.html>

[zymox.html](#) Another source for a similar product: <http://www.myitchydog.com/zymoxe.html> Also see the following: <http://www.crvetcenter.com/otitis.htm> "Chronic ear infections are one of the most common reasons for dog owners to seek veterinary care. Numerous products are sold for cleaning and treating inflammatory and infectious diseases of

the ear. Left untreated, the worst cases may require surgery to obliterate the vertical ear canal (ear canal ablation), a horrible conclusion to an already painful condition. Dog ear infection or otitis externa is treatable without resorting to cleaning products, medications, or surgery." Also see this Web Page: <http://www.crvetcenter.com/healthplan.htm> "How we treat ear infections" "...fill the ears with a natural ear medication (antibacterial and antifungal) called "Zymox-E" once a day for 5 days." <http://www.petkingbrands.com>

Other people have been using **Colloidal Silver** (CS) with great success -- *which is very dependent upon the particular brand or quality of CS*. Some folks have seen immediate results with CS, whereas the Blue Power Ear Treatment may take several days to notice improvement. Again, please warm the solution prior to putting it into an animal's ear. This can be accomplished by simply soaking the bottle in a bowl of hot water. The typical method is to use an eye dropper-full of CS in each ear to thoroughly coat the entire area every two hours, and most folks notice that the animal will no longer be shaking his or her head. Then, treat with half a dropper-full every two hours. Also, after applying the CS, it's recommended to gently wipe the ear with a wash cloth soaked in warm water (wrung out) and then repeat this an hour later. Treat twice a day for the first few days, then after improvement is noticeable, reduce the treatment to once a day, and later to once every other day.

It's suggested that optimal results are obtained when CS is used frequently and in small doses.

**Caution: if you must dilute Colloidal Silver, CS, use distilled water or well water.** Tap water typically contains chlorine and when combined with silver it creates silver chloride which is NOT to be used.

Many people consider the CS available at the Health Foods Stores to be of inferior quality as it's not really true electro colloidal silver but a diluted liquid of silver protein. It's not a panacea, and will only be effective if it actually *comes in contact* with the viral, bacterial or fungal infection. Keep it refrigerated and if it's cloudy, discard it.

A reliable source for CS is (no financial affiliation):

<http://wolfcreekranch1.tripod.com/wholisticproduct.html#COLLOIDALSILVER>

USPS Mail ONLY to: Wolf Creek Ranch,  
15980 Grand Avenue, Ste. M-37, Lake  
Elsinore, CA 92530

Please let me know what has been most helpful for you – email:

[Mail@ItsForTheAnimals.com](mailto:Mail@ItsForTheAnimals.com)

Some folks are recommending a **liquid herbal** product specifically formulated for companion animals: "**Natural Ear Comfort**" by BioPathics

[www.biopathics.com/natural\\_ear.htm](http://www.biopathics.com/natural_ear.htm)

They are the manufacturers of the product which is so helpful for joints and connective tissue health, "Cartilade". I would appreciate hearing from folks who have found it to be effective.

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**An annual wellness exam for our dogs is recommended** during which blood can be drawn and the **vaccine titers** ([www.itsfortheanimals.com/HEMOPET.HTM](http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/HEMOPET.HTM) - 714/ 891-2022 -- Pacific Time), rather than have unnecessary revaccinations. For competent, reliable medical advice, it's always good to consult with a compassionate veterinarian who utilizes holistic modalities and is knowledgeable about nutrition in your area. To locate one in your area, contact: The American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association <http://www.ahvma.org> 410/ 569-0795.

Our warm, loving companions depend upon us for their well-being. We owe it to them to make *informed decisions*. In addition to reading the many good books available (<http://www.itsfortheanimals.com/PUB.HTM>), there's many Internet Discussion Groups to keep abreast of the latest information.

I am the administrator of a friendly Yahoo Internet Discussion Group, *Companion Animal Care – Naturally* and you are cordially invited to join us to share and learn: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CompanionAnimalCare-Naturally/>

There are also free e-Newsletters, and I am editor of *Companion Animals Natural Care Newsletter*: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CompanionAnimalsNaturalCareNewsletter/>

**Give your dogs a Big Hug for me! – Helen** Helen McKinnon is the author of *It's For The Animals! Natural Care & Resources* and <http://www.ItsForTheAnimals.com> Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Contact: [Helen@ItsForTheAnimals.com](mailto:Helen@ItsForTheAnimals.com) PO Box 1913 Fairview, NC 28730 USA 828/ 628-7999

References:

<sup>1</sup> The vaccine virus does indeed shed for up to 14 days in the environment. This information has been scientifically studied and repeatedly published in peer-reviewed veterinary literature for over a dozen years. The following references provide documentation:

DVM Vaccine Roundtable: Safety, efficacy heart of vaccine use: experts discuss pros, cons, DVM Newsmagazine 119:16, 1988

Hoskins, JD: Vaccination protocol for canine parvovirus, Vet Forum 13(1):60, 1996

Schultz RD: Canine vaccines and immunity: important considerations in the success of vaccination programs. In Small Animal Immunology: New Faces of Immune-Mediated Diseases and Current Concepts in Vaccine Immunology, Proc San Diego Spring Vet Conf, pp 100-113, May 6-7, 1995b

Tizard I: Risks associated with use of live vaccines, J Am Vet Med Assoc 196:1851, 1990

**Some additional information which you might find helpful with regard to the judicial use of vaccines:**

Coulter, Harris, PhD, *Vaccination, Social Violence and Criminality*, North Atlantic Books, 1990.

Day, Christopher, E.I., MRCVS *Isopathic Prevention of Kennel Cough - Is Vaccination Justified?* International Journal of Veterinary Homeopathy, Vol. 2, number 2, 1987.

Dodds, W. Jean, DVM, *More Bumps on the Vaccine Road*, Proceedings of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, 1995.

T.R. Phillips, T.R., DVM and Ron Schultz, PhD, *Canine and Feline Vaccinations* in *Current Veterinary Therapy*, Volume XI Robert Kirk, DVM and John Bonagura, DVM, eds., 1992

Pitcairn, Richard, DVM, PhD, *A New Look at the Vaccine Questions*. Proceedings of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, 1993.

Scheibner, Viera, PhD, *Vaccination: The Medical Assault on the Immune System*, Australian Print Group, Maryborough, Victoria, Australia, 1993, p. 21.

Schultz, Ronald D., PhD, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference, 1995.

Schultz, Ronald D., PhD, *Current and Future Canine and Feline Vaccination Programs*, in *Veterinary Medicine* 1998.

**To follow are the References and information regarding putting solutions into the ear canal.** *Please Note:* from what I've read, just about **anything\*** put into the ear canal can be ototoxic [\*\*] -- if the ear drum is ruptured. Care should be taken to prevent anything from entering the Middle Ear [\*] and the Inner Ear.

As for the **gentian violet**, the Blue Power Ear Treatment has a tiny amount of it in the formula and this treatment has benefited untold numbers of dogs over the past 30+ years. The many, many wonderful reports I've received from people whose dogs suffered because conventional treatment failed, almost giving up hope and at the point of scheduling surgery, have **convinced** me that the Blue Power Ear Treatment really does work.

Though I've never used it, and don't sell it, Veterinarians recommend the Blue Power Ear Treatment and some make it up and sell it to their clients.

Sometimes, with broken skin due to a rash, or should the dog scratch the outer skin of the ear, the alcohol in the formula will sting. The CAUTION to remember is that serious damage (irreversible deafness, and/or loss of equilibrium) can occur if **anything** is put into an ear canal where the ear drum is ruptured.

Please remember that we need to make **informed decisions** concerning the care of our beloved animals and this includes doing one's homework. Understand that it's advised to have a veterinarian examine our dog prior to attempting to treat something such as a painful ear infection ourselves. Just about anything can be abused/misused, whether it's "natural" or "synthetic".

There have been indications about of gentian violet being toxic, a study in guinea pigs and the abstract doesn't indicate the *amount* of gentian violet used *or* if it was diluted. It appears that the gentian entered the Middle Ear [\*] and /or Inner Ear. However, doing a search on google will provide many other references where gentian violet is commonly used and has been used with traditional medicine for ages.

Some experts recommend gentian violet to prevent Candida yeast overgrowth when breastfeeding. Others state that vinegar, alcohol, and *many* other commonly used products (antibiotics, etc.) have the potential to harm the sensitive Middle [\*] and inner ear.

<http://www.arabmedmag.com/issue-31-03-2004/orl/main02.htm>

**"Characteristics of systemic and topical agents implicated in toxicity of the middle and inner ear"** Peter S. Roland, MD

[http://www.entusa.com/ear\\_pain\\_&\\_discomfort.htm](http://www.entusa.com/ear_pain_&_discomfort.htm) (human)

**"Ear Itching** is a common complaint. It is often associated with dry ear canals and absent ear wax. Medically, this condition is called **Chronic Otitis Externa**. This condition is often caused by an allergy to fungus. The ear canal is a warm, dark, damp place and fungus often grows there. Antibiotics are ineffective and the condition has been known to last for years. Over the counter medicines, lotrimin and tinactin solution used two to four times a day, can be helpful. However, the best treatment I have found is filling the ear canal with an anti-fungal cream. Painting the ear canal with gentian violet

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dye is also effective but this dye should not get into the **middle ear** [\*] because of possible **ototoxicity** [\*\*]. The dye also stains and thus one must be careful in its application. The ear must also be cleaned by an Ear Doctor. Treatment may last for months and relapses are common. The capability of the ear to make wax often does not return and this may predispose to the recurrences. In general dyes and acid mixtures (antiseptics) should not be allowed to get into the **middle ear**.”

[\*] **Middle Ear** – “an air containing cavity between the eardrum and the middle ear that contains the three ear bones (malleus, incus, & stapes). This cavity is connected to the nasopharynx by the eustachian tube.” / “part of the ear that includes the eardrum and three tiny bones of the middle ear, ending at the round window that leads to the inner ear.”

[\*\*] **Ototoxicity**: “The ability of a drug or chemical to damage or poison the inner ear, resulting in a hearing loss or dizziness”

### **The round window as access route for agents injurious to the inner ear**

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=3228184&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=3228184&dopt=Abstract)

Am J Otolaryngology, 1988 Nov-Dec;9(6):327-35

Spandow O, Anniko M, Moller AR.

### **Ototoxicity of common topical antimycotic preparations.** [

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list\\_uids=10763995&dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10763995&dopt=Abstract)

Laryngoscope, 2000 Apr;110(4):509-16.

Tom LW.

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~struwe/gentnet/>

<http://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/g/gentia08.html>

<http://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/Blue%20Purple%20Enlarged%20Photo%20Pages/gentian.htm>

**“The name, "gentian", is derived from "Gentius", a King of Illyria who is reputed to have found the local form of this plant beneficial for curing malaria in his troops.”**

<http://www.purplesage.org.uk/profiles/gentian.htm>

**“Additional Comments:** Gentian is named after Gentius, King of Illyria in the 1st century BC, who is said to have discovered the plant's ability to reduce fevers. Gentian root is used in many bitter liqueurs. Other species of Gentiana, known as *longdan*, are prescribed in Chinese medicine for similar conditions to those outlined above, as well as for conjunctivitis, urinary tract infections, jaundice, hepatitis, eczema and other skin problems.”

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