

1. General Information

A historical review of impressions, their purpose, and evolution over time, and a discussion on scope of practice.

2. Ear Anatomy

Review of ear anatomy focusing on anatomy specific to impressions. Review of common conditions of the outer ear.

3. Infection Control

Review best practices in infection control as pertaining to ear impressions, including hand hygiene and sterilization vs. disinfection vs. cleaning.

4. Equipment

A thorough review of all equipment commonly used for impression-taking. This includes lighting & magnification, placement tools, otoblocks, impression material, syringes & guns, office furniture, and future technology. Here we feature video equipment reviews.

5. Client Assessment

This section reviews the following pre-impression topics: needs assessment, informed consent, risk assessment & management, contraindications, and technique selection.

6. Methods of Earmold Impression Taking

Here we review all aspects of the actual impression-taking process, with a clear focus on technique. Includes: bracing, otoblock selection and placement, bite block placement, gun vs. syringe material loading and injection, cure time, removal, inspection of impression, and the post-removal ear exam.

7. Documentation & Outcomes

A review of the post-impression process, including end product fitting, addressing remakes, and proper documentation.