

# Traumatic cerebrospinal fluid otorrhea

Cerebrospinal fluid otorrhea occurs only if a perforation in the [tympanic membrane](#) or a defect in the external ear canal is present. This is often the case when the leakage results from trauma or previous ear surgery. However, in the absence of such a defect, the fluid flows down the eustachian tube and manifests as clear [rhinorrhea](#).

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CSF otorrhea usually occurs through a [petrous bone fracture](#) with perforation of the [tympanic membrane](#), although it can occasionally take place through a laceration of the external canal via fractured [mastoid air cells](#).

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Late-onset [cerebrospinal fluid otorrhea](#) is especially rare because most otorrhea stops immediately and naturally.

Most reports recommend immediate surgical repair for the treatment of delayed CSF leakage, but the optimal surgical approach remains controversial.

## Diagnosis

[Cerebrospinal fluid fistula diagnosis](#).

## Treatment

[Traumatic cerebrospinal fluid otorrhea treatment](#).

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