Inflation–Deflation Test

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Editor, I read the recent publication by Kurien et al with a great interest [1]. Kurien et al studied the diagnostic properties of inflation–deflation test for eustachian tube patency [1]. Kurien et al reached the conclusion that “The eustachian tube inflation–deflation test is a sensitive test for predicting aditus patency in patients with dry ears but less so in patients with discharging ears [1].” Kurein et al also noted that the inflation–deflation test could be used in the former to avoid unnecessary exploration of the mastoid [1]. Indeed, the inflation–deflation test is a classical diagnostic test in otolaryngology. It should be noted that there are several factors that can affect the result of the test. Recently, Adali et al noted that “Swallowing with water may be easier for subjects, but a repetition of the test at a second session may be necessary when the test result is “Poor” [2].” Dry versus wet condition becomes a topic to be concerned when perform the test. Indeed, in case of wet,

the additional liquid content on the pathway of pressure transmission during inflation–deflation test can block the pressure transmission and deteriorate the test result. This is a basic physical principle.

Conflict of Interest None.

References

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