

**MA112 Lab
Critical Thinking
Week 6**

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1. Why should otic and ophthalmic drops be located separately in the storage area?

Otic and Ophthalmic drops should be located in separate storage areas to avoid mix-up. Mix-ups can occur because ear drop and eye drop bottles can look very similar to each other, the medications can have similar sounding names, and misreading otic and optic (ophthalmic) labels when preparing a medication. These two areas (ears and eyes) have many look-a-like and sound-a-like medications, to avoid any potential dangerous/serious mix-ups it is best to keep these two medications separate.

2. Which instruments used in a visual test should be disinfected. Why?

The instrument used in the visual test that should be disinfected before and after the test is called an occluder. The occluder should be disinfected to avoid cross-contamination and to follow infection control procedures.

3. Why tilt the head toward the treatment side when eye irrigation is being performed?

The head is tilted toward the side of the eye needing treatment to avoid contaminating the other eye while it is being irrigated. If the head was tilted away from the eye needing treatment then when the eye was irrigated it would run into the other eye which would cause it to become contaminated. It would also cause more of a mess with the potential for it to go, not just in the other eye, but on the face, nose, and mouth. It is cleaner, safer, more sanitary, and effective to have the head tilt towards the treatment side when irrigating the eye.

4. What is the difference between conduction hearing loss and neural hearing loss?

Neural hearing loss is when there is damage to the auditory nerve and/or inner ear making it so the sound does not reach the brain. Neural hearing loss is permanent and is not normally treated with medicine or surgery although hearing aids may help.

5. Why should the pinna be pulled up and back on an adult for ear irrigation or instillation and down and back on a child?

The reason you pull upward and back on a patient older than 3 and downward and back on a child under 3 is to straighten the ear canal to allow the medication or instillation to flow down it. The external auditory canal (EAC) curves downward in children and upward in adults which is why we pull the pinna a certain direction depending on the age of the patient. If the EAC curves down and you pull the pinna upward (and vice versa) then you are creating a blockage that the medication or instillation will not be able to flow down.

6. Why should the patient lie on the side opposite the ear in which medications are instilled for approximately 5 minutes?

The patient should lie on the side opposite of the ear that the medication was instilled in for approximately 5 minutes. This is to make sure the medication has enough time to move throughout the ear canal to have the desired effect.