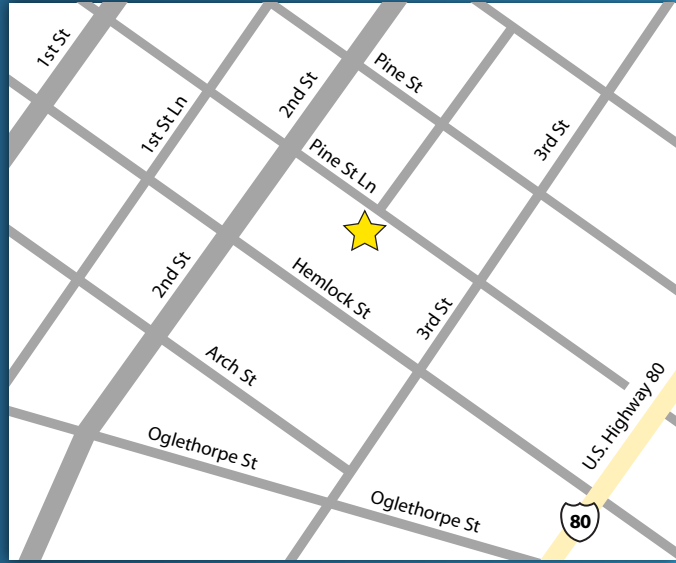




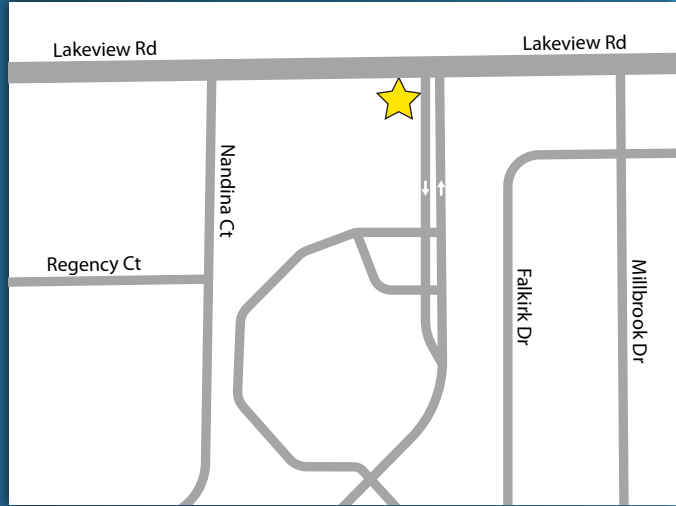
About the ENT Center of Central Georgia

The ENT Center of Central Georgia brings together the very best physicians and support staff dedicated to providing you an exceptional patient experience. In our pursuit to provide excellence in medical treatment, we listen to our patients and focus on their symptoms. We develop individualized treatment plans based on your unique needs and treat you like we would a family member. Whether you have hearing problems, allergies, dizziness, sinus infections, snoring, or any other ear, nose, and throat related problem, we can help.

For more information, contact one of the elite health care professionals at The ENT Center of Central Georgia today: 1-800-253-8953



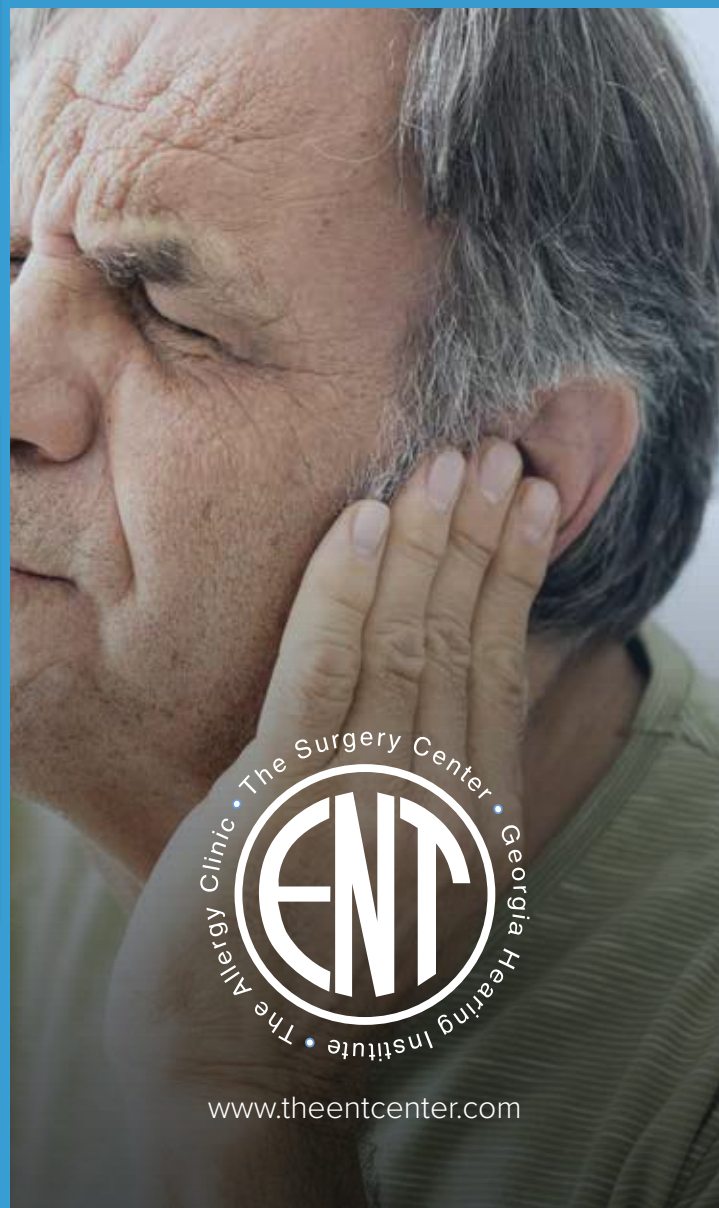
Macon Office
540 Hemlock Street
Macon, GA 31201
Phone: (478) 743-8953
Fax: (478) 743-1963



Warner Robins Office
6084 Lakeview Road
Warner Robins, GA 31088
Phone: (478) 333-2235
Fax: (478) 333-2238

The ENT Center of Central Georgia

Our Doctors Explain: **PERFORATED EARDRUM**



www.theentcenter.com



What Are the Symptoms of a Perforated Eardrum?

Some people are completely unaware of a ruptured eardrum; there may be a complete lack of symptoms or only a feeling of general discomfort. Other times, people will experience either a sudden sharp pain in the ear, a discharge of fluid that may be bloody, clear or pus-like; a buzzing or ringing in the ear; partial or complete hearing loss in the affected ear; ear infection; facial weakness or dizziness.

Meanwhile, perforated eardrums can affect hearing, too. The larger the perforation, the greater the chance of a loss of hearing. The same applies to the location of the perforation—traumatic middle ear perforations can result in severe hearing loss. And in the case of explosive events, both tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and chronic infection can contribute to further degrees of hearing loss.

How Is a Perforated Eardrum Diagnosed?

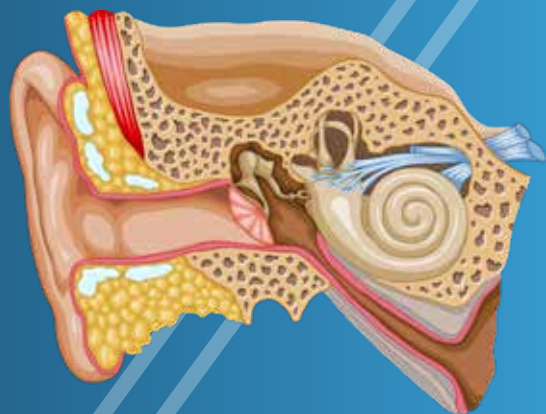
A doctor will examine your ears with an otoscope or other means of visual inspection with a lighted instrument to visually identify a hole or tear in the eardrum.

What Is a Perforated Eardrum?

Eardrum perforation is defined as a hole or rupture in the eardrum. Known medically as a tympanic membrane rupture, this tear occurs in the membrane separating your outer ear from your inner ear. Perforation can lead to a middle ear infection and possible hearing loss, though in many cases, it will heal on its own without medical treatment.

The eardrum converts sound waves into nerve impulses that are sent to the brain, and protects the middle ear from bacteria, moisture and other foreign objects. A perforation can disrupt both important functions, allowing bacteria to enter the ear and cause an ear infection (otitis media) or contribute to a loss of hearing.

Eardrum perforations are most often caused by infection, injury (e.g., inserting objects like bobby pins in the ear) or Eustachian tube disorders. Middle ear infections cause a buildup of pressure that may result in a ruptured eardrum, as well.



How Is a Perforated Eardrum Treated?

Because the majority of perforated eardrums heal on their own in a few months, no treatment may be needed other than antibiotics to prevent or treat an infection. Nonprescription pain medication and a warm compress can help. Large perforations may require surgery. While the rupture is healing, you'll need to keep the ear dry, avoiding water as much as possible.

In the event of associated hearing loss, your doctor may refer you to an audiologist to complete a series of hearing tests and strategize a hearing treatment plan.