

For Distribution to Medical Students

**Department of Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia Center**

Goals and Objectives of Physical Diagnosis

(Annual Teaching Session for Columbia Medical Student)

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The purpose of the physical diagnosis course in otolaryngology is to familiarize the medical student with:

- 1) the equipment used by an otolaryngologist and how the instruments are used to examine the ear, nose, throat, neck and associated structures;
- 2) normal anatomy of the head and neck with common landmarks.

The instruments demonstrated will include:

- Otoscope with pneumatic bulb attachment
- Head mirror
- Laryngeal mirror
- Tuning fork
- Penlight
- Tongue blade

Additionally, if time permits, flexible endoscopy will be demonstrated in the examination of the nasopharynx, hypopharynx and larynx.

The specific areas of examination to identify normal anatomy include:

- The external and middle ear with attention to the tympanic membrane landmarks;
- The anterior nose, with attention to the septum and turbinates;
- The oral cavity, with attention to the palate, tonsils, pharynx, tongue and floor-of –mouth;
- The nasopharynx and larynx with attention to the airway and vocal cords;
- The cranial nerve examination;
- The neck, with attention to the anterior and posterior triangles, and midline anatomy including the larynx and thyroid.

The student should bring the following:

- Hand-held otoscope
- Penlight