

# Media Release

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## **World-class ear microscope arrives in Tauranga**

Ear surgery at Tauranga Hospital has moved into a new era, thanks to the arrival of a world-class ear microscope.

Bay of Plenty Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon Dr Wouter Ten Cate has a special interest in ear surgery and is excited that the hospital has invested in the cutting-edge technology.

“The microscope is very easy to handle for the surgeon,” he says. “This is really important as modern ear surgery often combines eradication of ear disease with ear reconstruction, and so can last several hours.”

Ear surgery is typically carried out on children with glue ear, patients with chronic middle ear infection and patients with hearing loss due to a damaged drum and/or middle ear bones.

“The ear structures are very small and delicate,” says Dr Ten Cate. “The new microscope gives the surgeon an outstanding magnified view of the ear structures during the surgery. It has an in built camera so the theatre nurse who assists the surgeon can see the surgical field at all times. The camera is invaluable for teaching theatre nurses, ear nurse specialists and junior doctors.”

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From left to right: Mark Thorndyke from Zeiss, ENT surgeon Wouter Ten Gate, ENT medical officer Dinaz Irani and ENT charge nurse Ann Clemance.



Surgeon's view of a middle ear using the special ear microscope. In this case the middle ear bones were damaged by infection resulting in hearing loss for the patient. Under high magnification the surgeon is able to reconstruct the middle ear bones and restore hearing.

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