THE BRIGHTON GRADING – A MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM FOR OTITIS EXTERNA

Otitis externa

- **Tympanic membrane seen and intact?**
  - Yes
    - **GRADE I – Localised inflammation**
      - Topical antibiotics.
      - Water precautions.
      - Follow up with GP in one week.
  - No

- **Debris in ear but canal not completely occluded.**
  - Yes
    - **GRADE II – Debris in the ear**
      - Topical antibiotics.
      - Water precautions.
      - Non-urgent ENT referral (three to five days) for microsuction.
  - No

- **Is there complete canal occlusion but no systemic illness?**
  - Yes
    - **GRADE III – Canal occluded**
      - Topical antibiotics.
      - Same-day ENT referral.
      - Pope wick insertion.
  - No

- **Perichondritis +/- systemic illness?**
  - Yes
    - **GRADE IV – Perichondritis**
      - Same-day ENT referral
      - Pope wick insertion.
      - Hospital admission.
      - IV antibiotics.