Cholesteatomas of external auditory canal are a form of invasive keratitis characterised by accumulation of desquamated debris in the wall of canal. External ear canal cholesteatoma is a rare condition with an estimated incidence of 1 in 1,000.

63-year female presented to us with complaints of left ear pain and left ear discharge. Otoscopy was normal. Pure tone audiometry showed mild mixed hearing loss in left ear.

Preoperative CT scans showed defect in external auditory canal. Canal wall down mastoidectomy with type 3 tympanoplasty was performed. Cholesteatoma sac was seen and was removed completely. Histopathology confirmed diagnosis of cholesteatoma.

Primary auditory canal cholesteatoma is the invasion of squamous tissue from ear into localised area of bony erosion. The aetiology is uncertain, but in some of the series primary auditory canal cholesteatoma is post-traumatic or postsurgical. Diagnosis is confirmed on CT scan. External canal cholesteatoma is a rare condition and it poses challenge in diagnosis as it can be missed easily.

Keywords: Cholesteatoma, Auditory canal, HRCT, Histopathology.