**Figure 2. Inner ear barotrauma**

**A.** The inner ear at sea level.  
**B.** The inner ear during descent with blocked eustachian tube.  
**C.** Mechanism 1 suggests a forced Valsalva manoeuvre against a blocked eustachian tube with sudden opening and rush of air into the middle ear. This pressure can cause stapes footplate dislocation and implosion of the oval or round window.  
**D.** Mechanism 2 suggests a forced Valsalva manoeuvre against a blocked eustachian tube with increased cerebrospinal fluid pressures transmitted through the cochlear aqueduct and otic fluids leading to round window explosion.