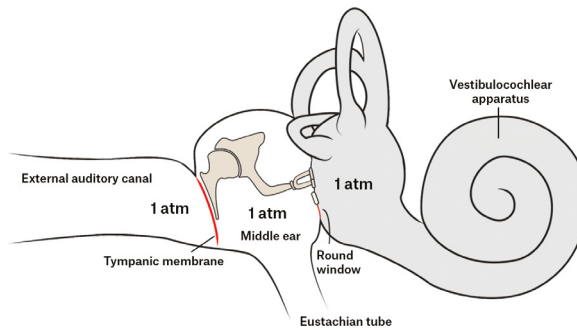
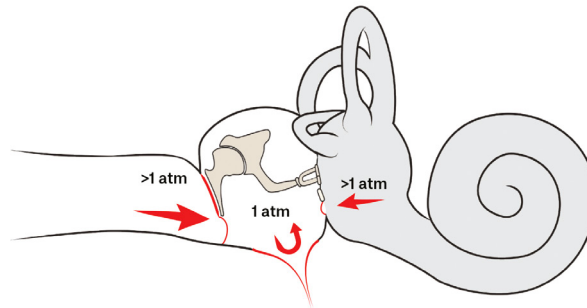


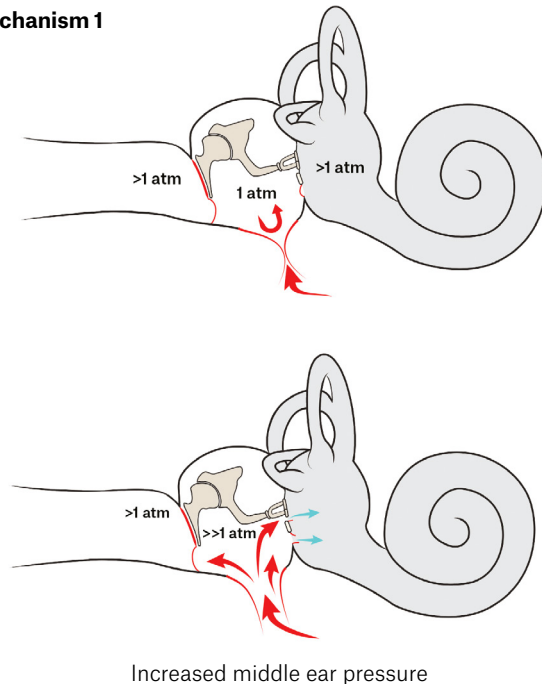
A At sea level



B During descent with blocked eustachian tube



C Mechanism 1



D Mechanism 2

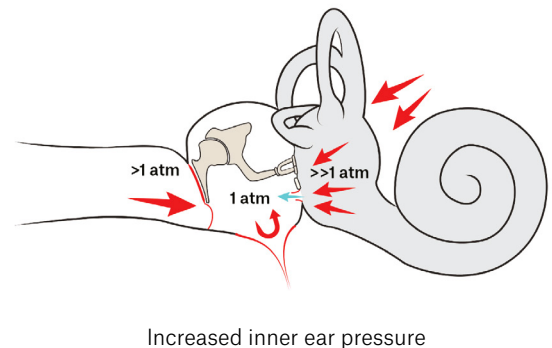


Figure 2. Inner ear barotrauma

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.