

Anterior rhinoscopy

The nose is both the sense organ and a respiratory organ. Anterior rhinoscopy is an examination of the nasal cavities enabling to note nasal secretions, swelling of the turbinates, properties of the mucosal surface, position of the nasal septum, ulcerations or presence of foreign bodies. The students are usually capable to observe the position of nasal septum with possible nasal deformities, inferior nasal turbinate and the quality of nasal mucosa.

Material

Nasal speculum.

Nasal speculum is a metallic or plastic instrument resembling pliers with a built-in source of light, which is led into the nasal cavity.



Fig. Nasal speculum

Method

Anterior rhinoscopy is only carried out after inspection without instruments. The observer should note properties of the overlying skin, externally visible changes in shape of the cartilaginous or bony structures, nasal vestibule, e.c. Then, the speculum is introduced into the nasal vestibule with its blades together. The point of the speculum is directed somewhat laterally in the nasal vestibule and the speculum is then opened out. The patient's head is initially in vertical position, allowing the examiner to observe inferior turbinate and the inferior meatus. The patient's head is then tilted slightly backward to allow the upper part of the nasal cavity to be examined.

The instrument is held slightly open while removing it to prevent pain due to avulsion of vibrissae.

Protocol

Describe your finding and draw the interior of nasal cavity with observed structures.