



Aside from the obvious scratch, the stick may have ruptured your eardrum. In most cases, a ruptured eardrum will heal within 2-3 weeks without treatment. While it's not an emergency, it makes sense to have it checked out by a physician once you get out of the woods. Avoid swimming and showers until you have confirmed that a) your eardrum is intact or b) it has completely healed; if water enters your middle or inner ear, you will likely get a middle/or inner ear infection.