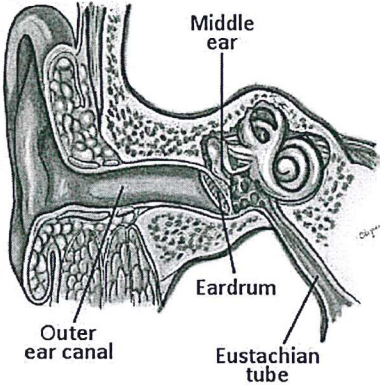


Otitis Media, Pediatric

Otitis media is redness, soreness, and puffiness (*swelling*) in the part of your child's ear that is right behind the eardrum (*middle ear*). It may be caused by allergies or infection. It often happens along with a cold.

Otitis media usually goes away on its own. Talk with your child's doctor about which treatment options are right for your child. Treatment will depend on:



- Your child's age.
- Your child's symptoms.
- If the infection is one ear (*unilateral*) or in both ears (*bilateral*).

Treatments may include:

- Waiting 48 hours to see if your child gets better.
- Medicines to help with pain.
- Medicines to kill germs (*antibiotics*), if the otitis media may be caused by bacteria.

If your child gets ear infections often, a minor surgery may help. In this surgery, a doctor puts small tubes into your child's eardrums. This helps to drain fluid and prevent infections.

HOME CARE

- Make sure your child takes his or her medicines as told. Have your child finish the medicine even if he or she starts to feel better.
- Follow up with your child's doctor as told.

PREVENTION

- Keep your child's shots (*vaccinations*) up to date. Make sure your child gets all important shots as told by your child's doctor. These include a pneumonia shot (*pneumococcal conjugate PCV7*) and a flu (*influenza*) shot.
- Breastfeed your child for the first 6 months of his or her life, if you can.
- **Do not** let your child be around tobacco smoke.

GET HELP IF:

- Your child's hearing seems to be reduced.
- Your child has a fever.
- Your child does not get better after 2–3 days.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- Your child is older than 3 months and has a fever and symptoms that persist for more than 72 hours.
- Your child is 3 months old or younger and has a fever and symptoms that suddenly get worse.
- Your child has a headache.
- Your child has neck pain or a stiff neck.
- Your child seems to have very little energy.
- Your child has a lot of watery poop (*diarrhea*) or throws up (*vomits*) a lot.
- Your child starts to shake (*seizures*).
- Your child has soreness on the bone behind his or her ear.
- The muscles of your child's face seem to not move.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your child's condition.
- Will get help right away if your child is not doing well or gets worse.

This information is not intended to replace advice given to you by your health care provider. Make sure you discuss any questions you have with your health care provider.