

EAR INFECTION

Let's talk...

FACT



- Most middle ear infections (otitis media) improve without the need for antibiotics, in otherwise healthy, vaccinated children and adults

ANTIBIOTICS ARE NOT NEEDED IN MOST CASES*

NO ANTIBIOTICS

VS

ANTIBIOTICS



8 of 10 children who **DO NOT** take antibiotics feel better within 2-3 days



9 of 10 children who **DO** take antibiotics feel better within 2-3 days

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO



Wash hands



Take fever or pain relief



Drink water



Get rest



Ask about other options

ANTIBIOTICS CAN CAUSE HARM



Nausea



Vomiting



Headache



Diarrhea

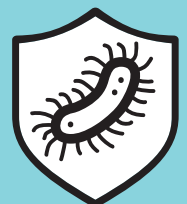
3 OUT OF 10 people who take antibiotics will experience side effects

WHEN TO SEEK FURTHER HELP

- Ear pain or fever not improving or lasting longer than 2 days
- High fever ($T \geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Drainage from ear
- New or worsening symptoms

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Frequent antibiotic use reduces the chance that antibiotics will work when you need them most.



References

Venekamp RP, Sanders SL, Glasziou PP, Del Mar CB, Rovers MM. Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2015;(6):CD000219.

Rovers M, Glasziou P, Appelman C, Burke P, McCormick D, Damoiseaux R et al. Antibiotics for acute otitis media: a meta-analysis with individual patient data. Lancet. 2006;368(9545):1429-35.

***WHEN ANTIBIOTICS MAY BE NEEDED:** Infants less than 6 months old, unvaccinated children, patients with high fever ($\geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$), severe symptoms for more than 48 hours, perforated tympanic membrane with purulent discharge, craniofacial anomalies, immunosuppression, or other complicating conditions.

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