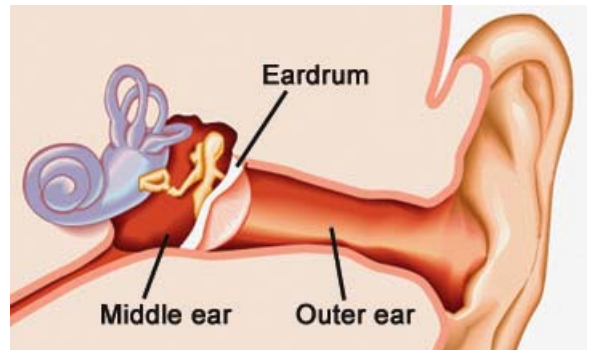


Discharge Instructions

[Adult]

MIDDLE EAR INFECTION

You have an infection of the middle ear (the space behind the eardrum). It can occur as a result of the common cold. This is because congestion can block the internal passage ("Eustachian Tube") that drains fluid from the middle ear. When the middle ear fills with fluid, bacteria can grow there and cause an infection. Oral antibiotics are used to treat this illness, not ear drops. Symptoms usually start to improve within 1-2 days of treatment.



HOME CARE:

- 1) Finish all of the antibiotic medicine prescribed, even though you may feel better after the first few days.
- 2) You may use acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) to control pain, unless something else was prescribed. **[NOTE:** If you have chronic liver or kidney disease or have ever had a stomach ulcer or GI bleeding, talk with your doctor before using these medicines.] (Do not give aspirin to anyone under 18 years of age who is ill with a fever. It may cause severe liver damage.)

FOLLOW UP with your doctor or this facility in two weeks if all symptoms have not cleared, or if hearing does not return to normal within one month.

RETURN PROMPTLY or contact your doctor if any of the following occur:

- Ear pain gets worse or does not improve after three days of treatment
- Unusual drowsiness or confusion
- Neck pain, stiff neck or headache
- Fluid or blood draining from the ear canal
- Fever over 100.5° F (38.0° C) after 3 days of antibiotics
- Convulsion (seizure)