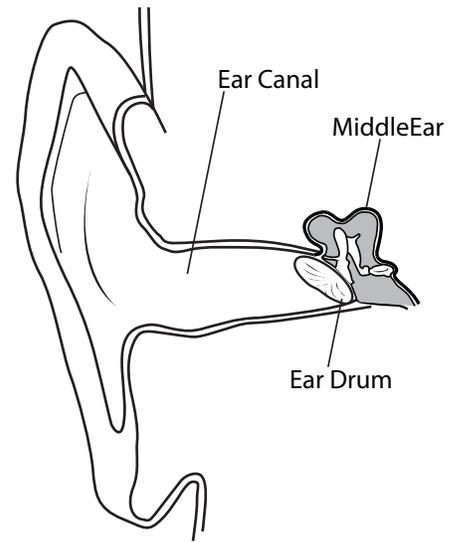


Middle Ear Infection

Middle ear infection is called otitis media. This infection occurs when germs get into the middle ear and the area fills with fluid.

Germs from a cold or flu can lead to a middle ear infection.

Fluid build-up in the middle ear can put pressure on your eardrum causing pain or other symptoms.



Signs and Symptoms

- Ear pain
- Fever
- Drainage from the ear
- Hearing loss
- Loss of balance

Your Care

- Your doctor will ask you about your symptoms and check your ears.
- Ear infections often go away on their own.
- Antibiotic medicine may be ordered for severe infections. Take all of your medicine as directed.
- Follow your doctor's recommendations to treat pain using over-the-counter pain relievers.
- Do not put anything in your ears including liquids, herbs or cotton-tipped applicators unless directed to by your doctor. They can block your ear canal, causing a loss of hearing or infection.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- Pain that gets worse
- Fever that gets higher or does not go away
- Drainage that gets worse
- Hearing loss

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

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