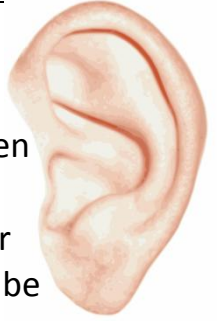


# Otitis Media

## What is Otitis Media?

- **Ear Infection**- Fluid in the middle ear, middle ear infection, or inflammation or infection in the middle ear, occurs in the area between the ear drum and the inner ear
- **Often Begins**- when infections that cause colds, sore throats, or other respiratory or breathing problems that spread to the middle ear, can be bacterial or viral infections



## What are the Symptoms?

- **Symptoms**- pain, redness of the eardrum, pus in the ear, and fever, pulling of ears, fluid draining from ears, sleep disturbances, headaches, problems with hearing, irritability, difficulty balancing

## Causes of Ear Infection

**Bacteria** -that can also be caused by viruses

**Bacteria that usually cause AOM**- Streptococcus pneumonia, Moraxella catarrhalis, and Haemophilus influenza

**Viruses that usually cause AOM**- respiratory syncytial, RSV/rhinoviruses, influenza viruses, adenoviruses

## Facts

- **Ear Infection Caused by a Virus**- antibiotics will not help make it better, often get better on their own without antibiotics
- **Taking an Antibiotic**- the bacteria that normally live in the body ( in your mouth, nose, intestines, on your skin) can become resistant to antibiotics
- **Common Antibiotics**- cannot kill infections caused by resistant germs

## Prevention

- **Ear Infection**- Avoid exposure to air pollution, smoking or second hand smoke

## What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- to determine what treatment is best for you, check to make sure all your immunizations are current

