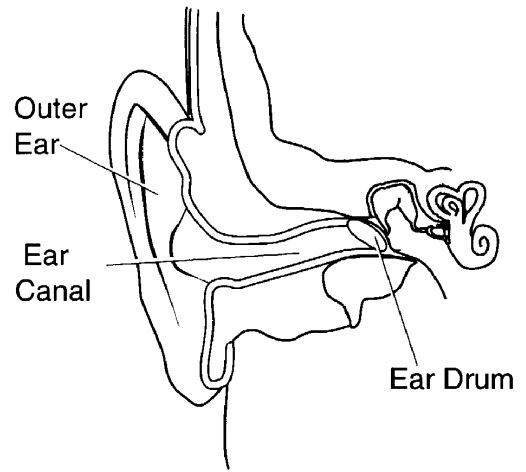


# Middle Ear Infection

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 signs.



## Signs

- Pain
- Fever
- Drainage
- Hearing loss

## Your Care

- Your doctor will ask you about your signs and check your ears.
- If your infection is caused by germs, antibiotic medicine may be ordered. Take all of your medicine as directed.
- You may use a heating pad on a **low** setting.
- **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.**

2005 – 5/2010 Health Information Translations

Unless otherwise stated, user may print or download information from [www.healthinfotranslations.org](http://www.healthinfotranslations.org) for personal, non-commercial use only. The medical information found on this website should not be used in place of a consultation with your doctor or other health care provider. You should always seek the advice of your doctor or other qualified health care provider before you start or stop any treatment or with any questions you may have about a medical condition. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Mount Carmel Health System, OhioHealth and Nationwide Children's Hospital are not responsible for injuries or damages you may incur as a result of your stopping medical treatment or your failure to obtain medical treatment.