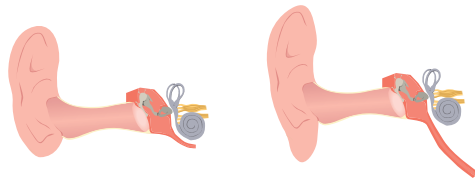


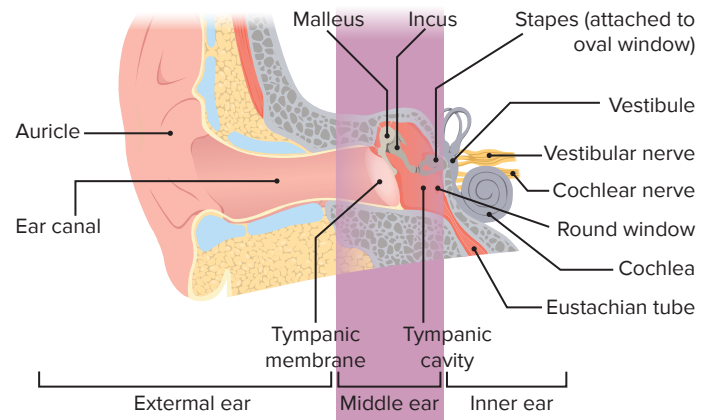
OTITIS MEDIA



Otitis media is the inflammation or infection (viral or bacterial) of the middle ear. It affects 10% of people globally annually and 50% of these cases occur in children.



Eustachian tube	Infants	Adults
Length	Approx. 9 mm	Approx. 18 mm
Direction of drainage into throat	Horizontal	More vertical, assisted by gravity



Causes		Risk factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial or viral infection Allergic reaction More common in infants and children because of their weaker immune system and developing bodies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondhand smoke Allergens Large groups of people Pacifier use Craniofacial abnormalities
Symptoms in children	Symptoms in adults	Treatments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritability Tugging at the ear Loss of balance Fever Otalgia (ear pain) Difficulty hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritability Fatigue Loss of balance Fever Otalgia (ear pain) Difficulty hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OTC analgesics (NSAIDs or acetaminophen) Antibiotics if caused by a bacterial infection Decongestants Antihistamines Tympanostomy tubes for recurrent cases Rest

Complications include:

Perforation of the tympanic membrane



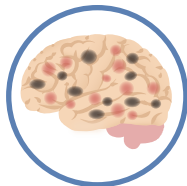
Speech or hearing delays or challenges



Mastoiditis: infection of the mastoid space behind the ear



Rarely: brain infections



NOTES

