

Otitis Media

Patient name: _____ Admission: _____

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I. The client/caregiver can define otitis media.

- A. The middle ear is an air space containing three small bones (malleus, incus, and stapes).
- B. The Eustachian tube connects the middle ear cavity with the throat. In children, this tube is short and horizontal. Transmission of infection to the middle ear is common.
- C. Otitis media is a bacterial or viral infection in the middle ear.

II. The client/caregiver can list common signs to watch for when considering otitis media.

- A. Unusual irritability
- B. Difficulty sleeping
- C. Tugging or pulling at one or both ears
- D. Fever
- E. Fluid draining from the ear
- F. Loss of balance
- G. Signs of hearing difficulty
 - Unresponsiveness to quiet sounds
 - Sitting too close to the television
 - Being inattentive

III. The client/caregiver can list measures to prevent or manage otitis media.

- A. Avoid contact with sick playmates.
- B. Avoid environmental tobacco smoke.

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- C. Children who nurse from a bottle while lying down appear to develop otitis media more often.
- D. Take medication as ordered and complete all medication cycle.

IV. The client/caregiver can list possible complications from otitis media.

- A. Infection can spread to the brain, if untreated.
- B. Hearing loss, possible permanent
- C. Interfere with speech and language development

RESOURCE

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
www.asha.org

REFERENCES

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