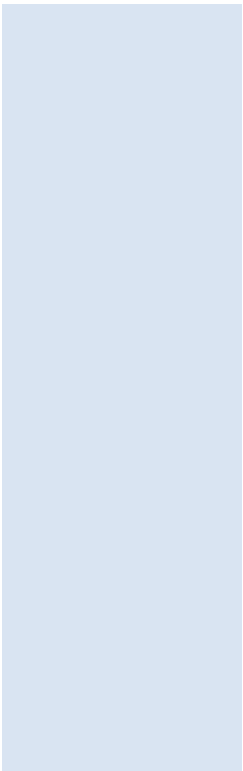


DuPage Medical Group

WE CARE FOR YOU

Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

otitis media



What Can Be Done



At DuPage Medical Group, we understand nothing is more important to you than the health of your child. Our physicians are here to help keep you and your family healthy and well. When a health issue arises, we realize you may have questions regarding your child's condition and treatment options. We have designed this brochure to provide you with answers to your most common questions. And as always, we welcome any additional questions. We are here for you.

we care for you



otitis media

Otitis media, or infection of the middle ear, is common in young children and affects millions annually. It occurs in approximately 80% of all children.

Otitis media is generally a bacterial infection which often requires antibiotic treatment. The infections commonly occur after a child experiences a cold or flu. Most infections are successfully treated with antibiotics. Unfortunately, when otitis media occurs too often or when antibiotics fail, hearing loss can occur, as well as speech and language delays. These problems often can impair a child's learning ability and cause developmental delays.

Fortunately, most ear infections can be successfully diagnosed and treated effectively, while reducing the chances for complications and long-term hearing damage.

Although serious complications such as mastoiditis (infection of the bone housing the ear structures) and meningitis occur rarely, it is important that otitis media be treated thoroughly to prevent other complications.

treatment

Medical treatments of otitis media include different kinds of antibiotics for varying lengths of time.

When infections become problematic or recur too often, children may be referred to a specialist known as an otolaryngologist. Evaluation of your child should include an accurate hearing test, called an audiogram, performed by a certified audiologist. Hearing can be tested in children of any age, using a number of advanced techniques and equipment.

pe tubes

When ear infections occur too frequently or are never completely resolved, we may recommend the placement of ventilating tubes in children. Ventilating tubes, often known as PE tubes (pressure-equalization), are placed in children under a brief general anesthetic. The tubes usually fall out by themselves within a year or two and require routine check-ups to ensure proper function.

after surgery

Pain if any, is usually controlled with Tylenol™.

Topical antibiotic ear drops, if needed, will be prescribed during the first week after surgery.

Bathing generally does not require ear plugs. Your surgeon will instruct you specifically if you should take any precautions.

A post-operative visit should be scheduled within 10-14 days with your surgeon.

long-term care of tubes

Swimming in fresh water (lakes, ponds or oceans) should be avoided because of higher concentrations of bacteria. Ear plugs should be used and can be custom-fit by our audiologists.

Regular 6 month physician examinations are necessary to ensure that no problems or complications occur with tubes.

We welcome any questions or concerns that you may have and look forward to providing you and your child with the best care possible.

frequently asked questions

q Is surgery safe?

a Surgery itself is very safe and has been used for over forty years. Anesthesia is also very safe. Problems with anesthesia are extremely rare in healthy children. The risk from anesthesia and surgery is reported to be less than 1:100,000 patients—rarer than being struck by lightning or winning the lottery.

q Is there any pain after tubes?

a Virtually no pain is experienced after the procedure. Children can be fussy after surgery, but often do not need any pain medicine.

q What is expected after surgery?

a There may be temporary drainage from the ears, as the infection drains. Ear drops, if necessary, will be prescribed to eliminate infection.

q Is there any permanent damage from the tubes?

a Generally, ear drums heal without any problems. If PE tubes are left in for more than 2-3 years, permanent perforations can occur. Routine follow-ups are necessary to ensure that tubes do not stay in longer than necessary.

q What can happen if tubes are not placed?

a Ear infections left untreated can often be more damaging than any surgery. Complications can occur, resulting in speech and language delay, rupturing of the ear drum, and scarring from too many ear infections and occasionally, hearing loss which may be permanent.

q Is there any role for removing the adenoids?

a Adenoidectomy has been shown to eliminate the need for repeated PE tubes. This is usually recommended only if a second set of PE tubes are needed or if the adenoids are enlarged.

q Are there any other alternatives other than surgery?

a Usually when surgery is recommended, there is no further indication for more antibiotics. To our knowledge, no alternative medicine has been proven to cure chronic otitis media. A second medical opinion, however, is always an option.



DuPage Medical Group

WE CARE FOR YOU

Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1100 W. 31st Street, Suite 300

Downers Grove, IL 60515

630 469 9200

www.dupagemedicalgroup.com

DUPAGE MEDICAL GROUP

IN GLEN ELLYN

430 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 330

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630 469 9200

DUPAGE MEDICAL GROUP

IN LOMBARD ON HIGHLAND AVENUE

1801 S. Highland Avenue, Suite 220

Lombard, IL 60148

630 873 8700

DUPAGE MEDICAL GROUP

IN NAPERVILLE ON RICKERT DRIVE

808 Rickert Drive, Suite 200

Naperville, IL 60540

630 355 8000