

Ear Pain

My child has ear pain, what can I do?

Ear pain may be caused by a middle ear infection, external ear infection, wax build up, teething, or some other cause. Without looking in your child's ear we are unable to determine the cause and prescribe the correct treatment. Therefore, we make it an office policy not to prescribe antibiotics over the phone as doing so is not in the best interest of your child. In this day of increasing bacterial resistance to antibiotics, we need to be sure an antibiotic is necessary before prescribing it to your child. It is best to schedule an appointment in the office to have the child evaluated. Tylenol and Motrin work well to control the pain until your child can be seen. Warm compresses on the ear can also be effective to relieve the pain. If the pain is particularly severe and Tylenol and Motrin are not working, please call the physician on call. If indicated, numbing drops may be prescribed to help your child sleep at night until the child can be evaluated in the office.

Call Immediately:

If your child is in excruciating pain and Tylenol and Motrin do not seem to be working.

If your child has a stiff neck, severe headache or is vomiting.

If your child is difficult to arouse or is acting very sick.

Call during office hours for an appointment to have the ear evaluated. Waiting 1-2 days to have the ear evaluated is perfectly reasonable if the pain can be adequately controlled with pain medication and your child is not displaying any of the symptoms listed above.