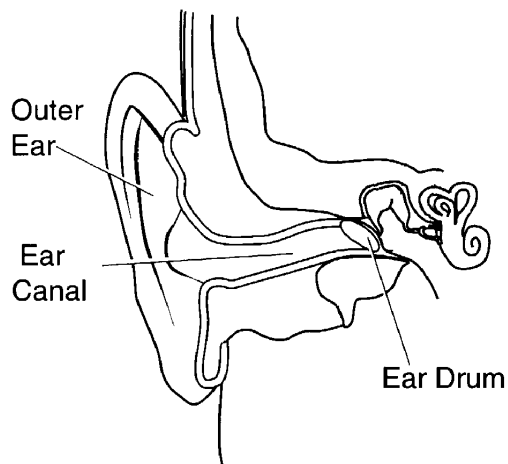


# Middle Ear Infection

Middle ear infection is called otitis media. This infection is caused when the fluid draining from your ear gets blocked. This may happen when you have a cold, allergy or the flu. The fluid build-up lets bacteria grow and puts pressure on your eardrum.

## Signs

- Pain
- Fever
- Drainage
- Hearing loss



## Your Care

- Your doctor will look at your ears and ask you about your signs.
- 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
- Fever
- Drainage that gets worse
- Hearing loss

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**