

Chiropractic Care and Ear Infections

Did you know that the #1 reason why parents take their children to the pediatrician's office is to investigate an ear ache? Many of these visits result in a diagnosis of Otitis Media (General name for different ear infections). In the past 20 years the number of office visits for Otitis Media has increased by 150% - that's nearly 24.5 million doctor visits. And the leading age group of Otitis Media (OM) sufferers is children under the age of two. So, if you are the parent of an infant or toddler, it is important that you educate yourself about this condition

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS

The most obvious symptom of Otitis Media is earache and the feeling of pressure and blockage in the ear. If there is fluid in the middle ear, there may be temporary loss of hearing.

Due to their age, children may not be able to verbally describe what they are feeling. However, you may notice them rubbing or tugging on the affected ear. Of course, this may be accompanied by frequent crying.

Often parents are quick to assume that these symptoms point to an ear infection. However, teething often produces similar symptoms and even physicians may jump to the conclusion that Otitis Media is the cause. But, before you overreact, closely observe your child's symptoms and, of course, don't delay seeking qualified care.

WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RECOMMEND?

Recently, the AAP released new guidelines for the treatment of Otitis Media stating that every course of antibiotics given to a child can make future infections more difficult to treat. The bacteria begin to develop a resistance to the treatment, which results in the use of a larger (and typically more expensive) range of antibiotics. Additionally, the benefits of the treatment are small and must be weighed against the potential harm caused by this particular form of therapy.

A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO OTTIS MEDIA

Before you begin a regimen of drug therapy for your child, you should carefully consider Chiropractic care. Here's why. A recent study was published in the Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics regarding the role of Chiropractic care for children with Otitis Media. The results were very interesting. Of the 332 children that participated, the study revealed that Otitis Media was resolved in an average of only 4 visits in acute cases and an average of only 5 visits in chronic cases. This data suggests the possibility that Chiropractic care may be more effective than drug therapy in addressing your child's health.

While there is no guarantee that Chiropractic care will help your child, it does provide a sensible, non-invasive approach to managing your child's health. Talk to your qualified Doctor of Chiropractic about how your child might benefit from regular visits.

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