

Recommendations for Referral regarding otitis media:

1. Recurrent acute otitis media:
 - a. Children with more than 3 infections in 6 months or more than 4 infections in a year may be referred for myringotomy tube candidacy evaluation. Please note that current recommendations for PE tube placement do not include such children unless there is associated hearing loss or speech and language delay or other complicating factors.
 - b. Laterality and treatment should be documented for each infection.

2. Otitis media with effusion:
 - a. Persistent middle ear effusions are very common following an episode of otitis media. Most children will clear the fluid within 3 months. Therapies such as decongestants and antibiotics do not improve the rate of clearance of effusion.
 - b. Children may be managed conservatively for 3 months in the case of a bilateral effusion, and 6 months for unilateral effusion. If fluid persists after that period, they should be referred for a Pediatric Otolaryngology evaluation with a pre-clinic audiogram.
 - c. Children at risk for speech or developmental delay, as well as those with pre-existing hearing loss, should be referred earlier

Clinic Contact Information

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Doernbecher patient consult line for referring providers: **503 346-0644** or **888 346-0644**.