

Ear Infections

Ear infections can be very painful for a child. It is important to remember that it is not emergent to have an ear infection treated right away. It takes antibiotics up to 48hrs to begin to heal enough for a child to stop having pain from an ear infection. So, if you suspect an ear ache, try to control the pain until your child can be evaluated by a physician. There are many types of ear infections. For the purpose of treatment, it is important for the doctor to determine what type of ear infection your child has. That is why antibiotics should not be called over the phone. However, for the purpose of pain relief, the treatment is generally the same. If your child is allowed to take ibuprofen, this should be given as needed for the discomfort. Otherwise, acetaminophen Please see under the topic "Burn Baby Burn" on this webpage for correct dosing. A warm washcloth or heating pad can help relieve some discomfort also. There are some over-the-counter ear herbal drops such as Similisan and others that can be safely used until your child can be seen.

One major worry for parents is that the ear drum will rupture. Be rest assured, if this happens, the infection will drain out and the hole should heal up with several days. In fact, if the ear drum ruptures, this will relieve a lot of pressure and pain temporarily for your child. Wipe the drainage away and treat the pain. Call the doctor when the office opens and we will take a look.