Let’s talk...

FACT

• Most middle ear infections (otitis media) improve without the need for antibiotics, in otherwise healthy, vaccinated children and adults

ANTIBIOTICS ARE NOT NEEDED IN MOST CASES*

8 of 10 children who DO NOT take antibiotics feel better within 2-3 days

9 of 10 children who DO take antibiotics feel better within 2-3 days

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO

• Wash hands
• Take fever or pain relief
• Drink water
• Get rest
• Ask about other options

ANTIBIOTICS CAN CAUSE HARM

• Nausea
• Vomiting
• Headache
• Diarrhea

3 OUT OF 10 people who take antibiotics will experience side effects

WHEN TO SEEK FURTHER HELP

• Ear pain or fever not improving or lasting longer than 2 days
• High fever (T≥39°C)
• Drainage from ear
• New or worsening symptoms

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Frequent antibiotic use reduces the chance that antibiotics will work when you need them most.

*WHEN ANTIBIOTICS MAY BE NEEDED: Infants less than 6 months old, unvaccinated children, patients with high fever (≥39°C), severe symptoms for more than 48 hours, perforated tympanic membrane with purulent discharge, craniofacial anomalies, immunosuppression, or other complicating conditions.

References