






Resource 4-2: Middle Ear Conditions: History, findings, treatment, and images of normal findings, otitis media with effusion, acute otitis media

Middle Ear Conditions			
Condition	History	TM findings	Treatment
Normal TM 	No specific complaint	Pale, gray, translucent appearance Cone of light and bony landmarks visible Mobile with pneumatic otoscopy	None, normal finding
Otitis media with effusion (AKA serous otitis) 	Sensation of ear fullness or pressure, itch, and/or otalgia. Conductive hearing loss. No fever or otorrhea	Air-fluid level visible, often with air bubbles Opaque yellow or blue color Cone of light and bony landmarks diminished or absent TM mobility with pneumatic otoscopy limited	Treatment of underlying cause such as allergic rhinitis. Usually resolves in 1–3 weeks without special intervention
Acute otitis media 	Sensation of ear fullness, pressure and otalgia. Conductive hearing loss. Fever common	TM redness, bulging Cone of light and bony landmarks absent TM mobility with pneumatic otoscopy absent Otorrhea possible with TM rupture	Analgesia, antimicrobial therapy typically given. However, high rate of spontaneous resolution without antimicrobial treatment.

Source: Fitzgerald, M. A. (2020). Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders, Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam Prep (6th ed.). Philadelphia: F. A. Davis.

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