Draining Ear

Ear wax, pus, blood and other fluid are examples of the different types of drainage from ears. Drops or cream may be needed to lessen the itching which may occur with ear drainage.

CAUSES

Causes of ear drainage include:

- Skin irritations in the ear.
- Ear infection.
- Swimmer's ear (infection of the skin in the tube that leads to the eardrum).
- Ruptured eardrum.
- Foreign object in the ear canal.
- Sudden pressure changes.
- Head injury.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Take prescribed and over-the-counter medicines as directed. Medicines may include antibiotics and ear drops.
- Do not rub the ear canal with cotton-tipped swabs.
- Do not swim.
- Use a cotton ball covered with petroleum jelly when showering to keep water out.
- Limit exposure to smoke. Second-hand smoke can increase the chance for ear infections.
- Keep up with immunizations.
- Good hand washing.
- It is important to keep follow-up appointments to examine the ear and evaluate hearing.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 100.5° F (38.1° C) or higher for more than 1 day.
- There is increased drainage.
- Ear pain, fever or drainage are not getting better after 48 hours of antibiotics.
- There is unusual sleepiness.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:.

- You have severe ear pain or headache.
- Your child is older than 3 months with a rectal or oral temperature of 102° F (38.9° C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher**.
- You have vomiting.
- You have dizziness.
- You have a seizure.
- You have new loss of hearing.

Document Released: 12/18/2006 Document Re-Released: 12/06/2010
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