

Glue Ear

Patient and Carer Information

Children's Community Audiology

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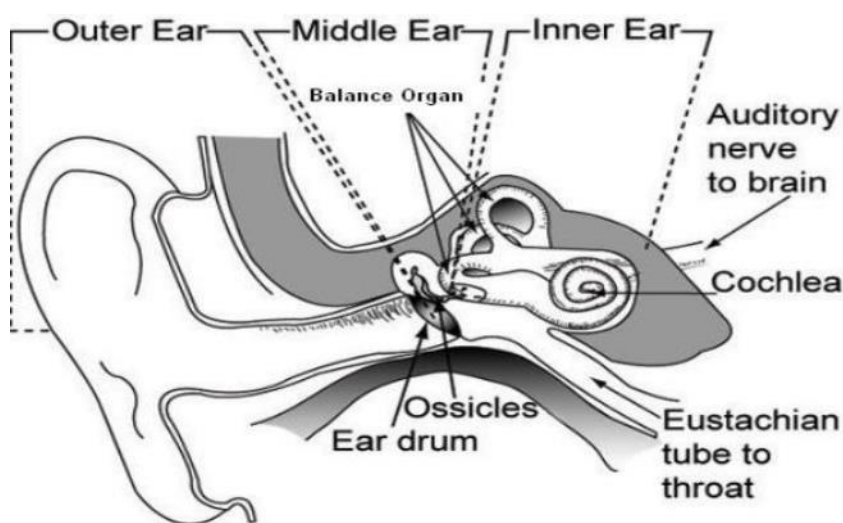
What is Glue Ear

Glue ear is a condition which affects many young children and is more common in the winter months.

- It is fluid that builds up behind the ear drum in a space called the middle ear which is usually filled with air.
- It can affect one or both ears at any one time.
- It usually improves by itself but in some cases it can persist and may cause hearing loss.
- It is really important to have a hearing test to check how glue ear is affecting your child's hearing.

Why does Glue Ear occur?

Following coughs, colds or ear infections mucus may remain in the middle ear space for a prolonged period of time. This is because the tube that connects the middle ear to the back of the throat (Eustachian tube) is not functioning efficiently; this may affect your child's hearing.



How can I help?

- Attract your child's attention before speaking to him/her.
- Speak clearly and do not shout.
- Let your child see your face when you are speaking to him/her.
- Keep background noise to a minimum.
- Inform school, nursery or anyone who looks after your child to do the same.

What happens after the hearing test?

Your child will be reviewed in three months for a repeat hearing test. This is national guidance called watchful waiting.

- If your child only has a mild hearing loss with no other problems then his/her hearing will continue to be monitored.
- Children with persistent glue ear, causing hearing loss, may be referred to an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Consultant.
- If you have an ENT appointment a decision to insert grommets may be made.
- Grommets are small ventilation tubes that are inserted into the eardrum under general anaesthetic. They will help your child to hear better.
- Temporary fitting of hearing aids may also be considered.

Local Community Pharmacy

Your local community pharmacies offer a wide range of services including information and general advice on symptom relief medicines as well as a prescription collection and delivery service.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

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Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/leaflets

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in department/ward.

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