

Algorithm: Acute Otitis Media

Concern for acute otitis media (AOM)

Severe symptoms?
 • Moderate or severe otalgia or otalgia for ≥ 48 hours, or
 • Temperature $\geq 39^\circ\text{C}$

Prescribe antibiotics
 • < 2 years old: 10 days
 • 2-5 years: 7 days
 • ≥ 6 years: 5 days

Bilateral disease in a child 6-23 months?

Allergic to penicillins?

Alternatives include:
 • Cefdinir
 • Cefuroxime
 • Cefpodoxime
 • Ceftriaxone

• Mild, unilateral disease in 6-23 months, OR
 • Mild unilateral/bilateral disease in children ≥ 2 years

• Amoxicillin in past 30 days, OR
 • Concurrent purulent conjunctivitis OR
 • History of recurrent AOM unresponsive to amoxicillin

Amoxicillin/clavulanate ES
 90 mg/kg divided BID

Consider watchful waiting for the next 48-72 hours

Amoxicillin
 80-90 mg/kg divided BID

Adapted from: Lieberthal AS, Carroll AE, Chonmaitree T, et al. The diagnosis and management of acute otitis media. *Pediatrics*. 2013;131(3):e964-99.