EAR PROBLEMS



Normal Tympanic Membrane

Light reflex
Silver/grey
Malleus visible



Acute Otitis Media

Acute infection of the middle ear

Mucosal inflammation -> effusion

Opaque with white/pink discolouration

Bulging tympanic membrane

Erythema/prominent vessels

Pain, fever, hearing loss, URTI symptoms

Amoxicillin if persistent or progressive



Otitis Media with Effusion

AKA glue ear, serous otitis media
Acute infection resolves
Middle ear effusion does not resolve
Tympanic membrane retracted
Bones easily visible
Painless, persistent hearing loss
Refer to GP



Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media

Chronic middle ear infection

Perforated tympanic membrane

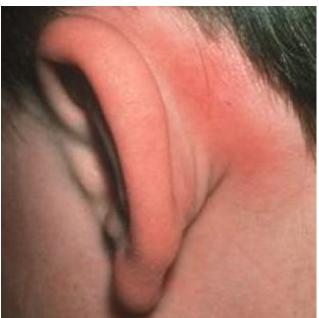
Purulent discharge from ear

Hearing loss

Usually painless

Refer to GP

Will need ENT outpatient f/u



Acute Mastoiditis

Infection of mastoid air cells

Spread from adjacent middle ear

Destruction of bone

Mastoid tenderness & cellulitis

Fever, intracranial extension

If suspected perform CT

IV antibiotics, refer to ENT



Diffuse Otitis Externa

Acute inflammation of external canal
Caused by moisture (swimmer's ear)
Pseudomonas most common pathogen
Discharge, ear pain, tragal tenderness
Narrow ear canal due to swelling
May be unable to see tympanic
membrane

Gentamicin/steroid eardrops if severe