



News Release

American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery

Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care

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February Is Kids E.N.T. Health Month

Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctors Raise Awareness of Common Pediatric Health Concerns

Alexandria, Va. – February is Kids E.N.T. Health Month and otolaryngologists, the only medical doctors who specialize in treatment of disorders of the ear, nose, throat, head, and neck, want to educate parents and other caregivers on common pediatric ENT health concerns.

National health statistics reveal that pediatric ear, nose, and throat disorders remain among the primary reasons children visit a physician, with ear infections ranking as the number one reason for an appointment. From earaches to enlarged tonsils, kids can suffer from a variety of ailments that require prompt diagnosis and treatment. Children can also suffer from conditions normally only associated with adults, like chronic acid reflux and sleep apnea, which may require a visit to a specialist.

With this in mind, the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) maintains a dedicated web site, <http://www.entnet.org/kidsent/>, designed to educate parents and other caregivers about the signs and symptoms of common ENT-related conditions.

“With recent reports in the media highlighting special concerns for children in the cold and flu season, it is extremely important for parents to learn about the signs and symptoms of common ear, nose, and throat conditions in their kids,” says Max April, MD, professor of Clinical Otorhinolaryngology, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and chair of the AAO-HNS Pediatric Otolaryngology Committee. “The Kids E.N.T. website offers a lot of valuable educational resources that parents can quickly access and easily use to learn about everyday ear, nose, and throat ailments.”

Included on the website for the 2008 Kids E.N.T. Health Month is a new Q&A with Dr. April about children’s cough and cold medicines, facts sheets on common pediatric ENT conditions, a “Just for Kids” section, and much more.

Reporters who wish to speak with a pediatric ENT expert should contact Jessica Mikulski at 1-703-519-1549, or newsroom@entnet.org.

Now in its sixth year and still enhancing its resources, Kids E.N.T. Health Month asks the public, media, and the medical community to remember that on the whole, ear, nose, and throat disorders afflict the pediatric population at a higher rate than other medical disorders. Additionally, this patient outreach effort provides physician-reviewed information for the public, addressing such disorders and why, at times, specialty care is required for appropriate treatment and diagnosis.

About the AAO-HNS

The American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (www.entnet.org), one of the oldest medical associations in the nation, represents more than 12,000 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The Academy serves its members by facilitating the advancement of the science and art of medicine related to otolaryngology and by representing the specialty in governmental and socioeconomic issues. The organization’s mission: “Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care.”

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