AAO12: Tympanostomy Tubes: Topical Ear Drop Monotherapy Acute Otorrhea

High Priority: Yes; Appropriate Use

Percentage of patients age 6 months to 12 years of age at the time of the visit with a current diagnosis of an uncomplicated acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea (TTO) who were prescribed or recommended to use topical antibiotic eardrops and NOT prescribed systemic (IV or PO) antibiotics for acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea.

Denominator:
All patients age 6 months through 12 years of age at the time of the visit with a current diagnosis of an uncomplicated* acute** tympanostomy tube otorrhea.

* Uncomplicated refers to TTO that is not accompanied by high fever (38.5°C, 101.3°F), concurrent illness requiring systematic antibiotics (e.g., streptococcal pharyngitis, bacterial sinusitis), or cellulitis extending beyond the external ear canal to involve the pinna or adjacent skin.

** Acute refers to less than four weeks’ duration.

Denominator Exclusions:
None

Denominator Exceptions:
Medical reason for not prescribing/recommending topical antibiotic monotherapy or for prescribing oral antibiotics include:
• Patients with high fever;
• Patients with cellulitis of the ear or adjacent skin;
• Patients who are immunocompromised;
• Patients with oral antibiotic given for other concurrent condition including but not limited to streptococcal pharyngitis, bacterial sinusitis, pneumonia, pharyngitis, osteitis abscess, or other concurrent acute infection beyond the confines of the ear canal;
• Patients who failed topical antibiotic therapy;
• Patients with a cochlear implant;
• Patients with concurrent diabetes;
• Patients who were prescribed oral antibiotics by another clinician; concurrent diagnosis of acute suppurative otitis media effusion with intact eardrum; acute TTO persists, or worsens, despite topical antibiotic therapy.

Patient reason for not prescribing/recommending topical antibiotics or prescribing oral antibiotics include:
• Administration of eardrops is not possible because of local discomfort.
• Lack of tolerance.

Numerator:
Patients who were prescribed or recommended to use topical antibiotic eardrops and NOT prescribed systemic (IV or PO) antibiotics for acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea.

Measure Classifications:
Measure Type: Process
National Quality Strategy (NQS) domain: Effective Clinical Care
Meaningful Measure Area: Appropriate use of Healthcare
Calculation:
Inverse measure: No
Continuous measure: No
Proportional measure: Yes
Ratio measure: No
Risk Adjusted measure: No
QCDR Measure Flow for:

AAO12
Tympanostomy Tubes: Topical Ear Drop Monotherapy Acute Otorrhea

**INITIAL PATIENT POPULATION (IPP)**

Was the patient seen by an eligible provider in the calendar year?

- **NO**
  - Patient NOT included in IPP

- **YES**
  - Was the patient 6 months to 12 years old?
    - **NO**
      - **NO**
    - **YES**
      - INCLUDED in IPP — Continue to Denominator

**DENOMINATOR**

Did the patient have a current diagnosis of an uncomplicated acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea?

- **NO**
  - Patient not eligible for this measure

- **YES**
  - Was there a medical reason for not prescribing/recommending topical antibiotic monotherapy or for prescribing oral antibiotics?*
    - **YES**
      - Denominator Exception
    - **NO**
      - Was there a patient reason for not prescribing/recommending topical antibiotic monotherapy or for prescribing oral antibiotics?
        - **YES**
          - INCLUDE in Denominator — Continue to Numerator
        - **NO**

**NUMERATOR**

Was the patient prescribed or recommended to use topical antibiotic ear drops for acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea?

- **NO**
  - Measure NOT Met

- **YES**
  - Was the patient NOT prescribed systemic (IV or PO) antibiotics for acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea?
    - **YES**
      - **NO**
    - **NO**
      - Measure Met

---

**MEASURE DESCRIPTION**

Percentage of patients age 6 months to 12 years of age at the time of the visit with a current diagnosis of an uncomplicated acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea (TTO) who were prescribed or recommended to use topical antibiotic ear drops and NOT prescribed systemic (IV or PO) antibiotics for acute tympanostomy tube otorrhea.

*Denominator Exceptions:*

**MEDICAL REASONS:**
- Fever > 101.3˚F
- Cellulitis of the ear
- Immunocompromised
- Oral antibiotics for concurrent condition
- Failed topical antibiotic therapy
- Cochlear implant
- Diabetic
- Prescribed antibiotics by another physician
- Concurrent diagnosis of acute suppurative otitis media
- Acute otorrhea persists or worsens

**PATIENT REASONS:**
- Local discomfort
- Intolerance for topical monotherapy