

Subcommittee on Management of Acute Otitis Media

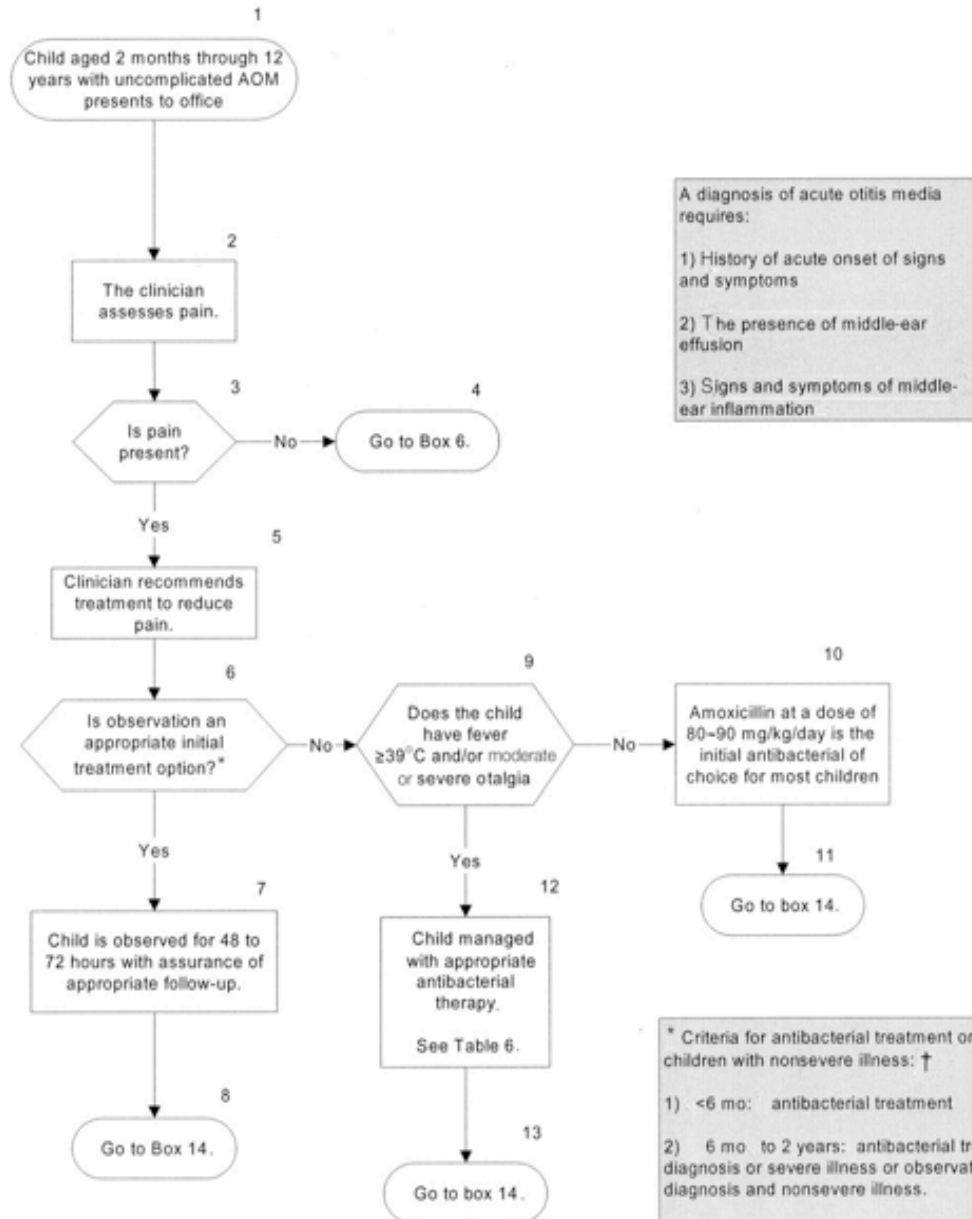
Pediatrics 2004;113:1451-1465

TABLE 2. Definition of AOM

A diagnosis of AOM requires 1) a history of acute onset of signs and symptoms, 2) the presence of MEE, and 3) signs and symptoms of middle-ear inflammation.

Elements of the definition of AOM are all of the following:

- 1) Recent, usually abrupt, onset of signs and symptoms of middle-ear inflammation and MEE
- 2) The presence of MEE that is indicated by any of the following:
 - Bulging of the tympanic membrane
 - Limited or absent mobility of the tympanic membrane
 - Air-fluid level behind the tympanic membrane
 - Otorrhea
- 3) Signs or symptoms of middle-ear inflammation as indicated by either
 - Distinct erythema of the tympanic membrane or
 - Distinct otalgia (discomfort clearly referable to the ear[s] that results in interference with or preclude normal activity or sleep)



A diagnosis of acute otitis media requires:

- 1) History of acute onset of signs and symptoms
- 2) The presence of middle-ear effusion
- 3) Signs and symptoms of middle-ear inflammation

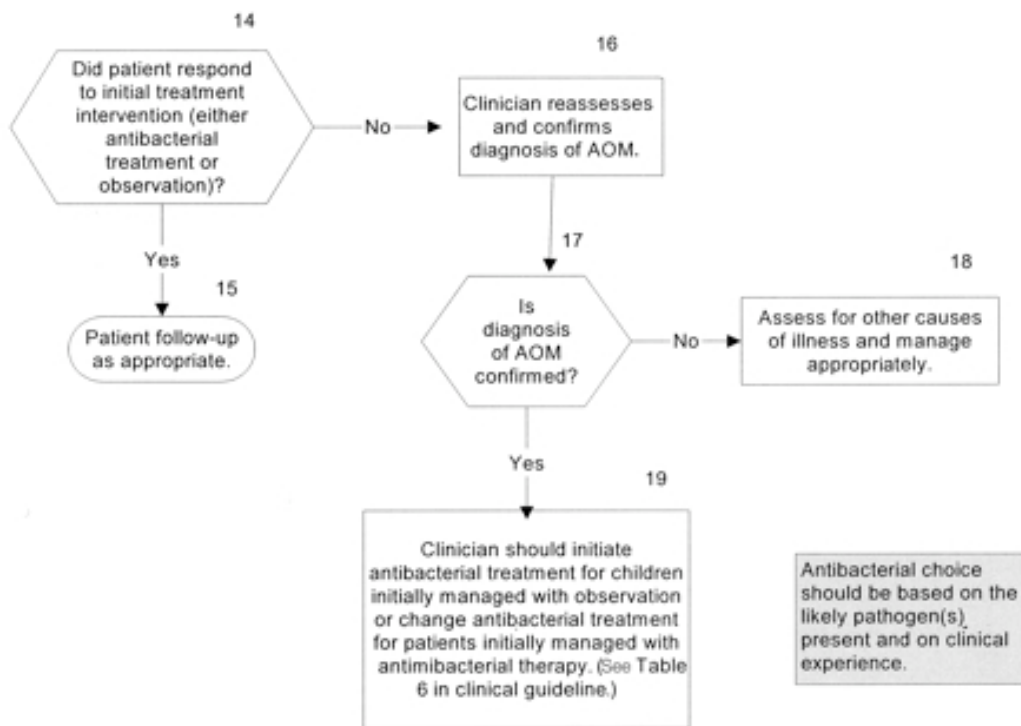
* Criteria for antibacterial treatment or observation in children with nonsevere illness: †

- 1) <6 mo: antibacterial treatment
- 2) 6 mo. to 2 years: antibacterial treatment with certain diagnosis or severe illness or observation with uncertain diagnosis and nonsevere illness.
- 3) 2 years and older: antibacterial treatment if severe illness or observe with nonsevere illness with certain diagnosis; observation for uncertain diagnosis.

† Caregiver is informed and agrees to the option of observation.

Caregiver is able to monitor child and return should condition worsen.

Systems are in place for ready communication with the clinician, reevaluation, and obtaining medication if necessary.



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