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Overview of Serous Otitis Media (Fluid in the Ears)

PRINT

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Serous otitis media (SOM), also known as otitis media with effusion (OME), [fluid in the ear](#), middle ear effusion (MEE), or secretory otitis media, is a condition in which fluid resides in the middle ear.

"Serous" refers to the type of fluid that is collecting inside the middle ear. Serous fluid is usually straw (yellowish) colored liquid or mucus. In this case, there is a [eustachian tube](#) dysfunction and the auditory tube is unable to drain the fluid as it normally should. ^[1]

Risk Factors for Serous Otitis Media

The most common group of people at risk of getting serous otitis media are children. This will usually resolve in a month. If it is unresolved, however, your child's doctor may need to help remove the fluid.

Common reasons that children are more likely to get fluid in the ear includes the