

## Ear Infection vs Swimmer's Ear

Common symptoms	
Ear Infection	Swimmer's Ear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Pulling/tugging on the ear</li> <li>• Pain that increases when lying down, trouble sleeping</li> <li>• Decreased appetite, diarrhea or vomiting</li> <li>• Difficulty hearing clearly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Itchy outer ear</li> <li>• Outer ear canal is red and swollen</li> <li>• Pain that increase when pulling earlobe</li> <li>• Foul smelling drainage</li> <li>• Difficulty hearing clearly</li> </ul>
Additional signs	
Recent congestion, runny nose, watery eyes	Recent exposure to water or moisture
Treatment	
<p>It is important to examine the ear with an otoscope to look for infection or blockages. For this reason you should see your primary care provider or urgent care provider.</p> <p>Over-the-counter medicines can be used to treat pain, and antibiotics can be used for bacterial infections.</p>	<p>Swimmer's ear can usually be treated in children and adults with an online visit.</p> <p>Over-the-counter medicines and a warm compress can be used to treat pain, and antibacterial drops are usually recommended for bacterial infections.</p>