



UNCERTAINTY IS NOT AN OPTION

Regarding the article "Uncertainty is Not an Option" in the last *Pitt Med*: In order to accurately diagnose ear infections in children, a pediatrician needs to master the use of the operating microscope. It took me about four to six months to learn this technique. There are several advantages: 1) removal of wax in infants and children; 2) visualization of the eardrum in infants and children; 3) ability to distinguish between acute otitis media and secretory otitis media; 4) removal of foreign bodies from ear and nose; and 5) suture removal.

Peter A. Statti
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I read Chuck Staresinic's article "Uncertainty is Not an Option." I only wish the doctors that my 2-year-old sees were aware of this. My son began getting low-grade ear infections last December. After three rounds of different antibiotics (and a bad reaction to one), we brought him back to the doctor's office on a Saturday

morning. By then, we were seeing a third doctor at the same office.

Herein lies the story. Previous to the Saturday morning visit, we had visited two different doctors and been told that ear tube surgery and Rocephin shots were options. On that Saturday, we were told that my son would simply grow out of the infections. Three different doctors in the same office were recommending three different courses of treatment.

My wife and I had a 25-minute conversation with the third doctor about how confused we were. Still, we left wondering, *If we could not trust the doctors at the office for something minor (assuming the infection would clear up on its own), how could we trust the doctors if something more serious was wrong with our kids?*

Fortunately our son was re-checked later, and the infection had cleared up.

I hope that you can get your article to more doctors so that other parents are not put through the same frustrations that we were.

David Norvell
Charlotte, N.C.

STAY IN TOUCH!

We look forward to alumni news missives. And we gladly receive letters from our readers (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity). Drop us a line.

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CORRECTIONS

We regret that in an article about Howard Heit (MD '71) ("Howard Heit Speaks to an Epidemic of Undertreatment," Summer 2011), we reported his late wife's name incorrectly. She was Judith A. Heit (A&S '69). A corrected version appears on our Web site.

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