

## **Otitis media terminology across studies: are we comparing apples with oranges?**

**Host School/Institute: Department of General Medicine, The Children's Hospital at Westmead**

**Project Code: CHW1**

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### Description of Project:

Otitis media is a spectrum of conditions affecting the middle ear but there is no international consistency in the way these conditions are defined. Acute otitis media may be used to define different clinical conditions in different studies and this makes comparisons between studies difficult. Our aim is to compare the definitions used by published prevalence studies across the last 3 decades in order to advocate for consistency in international classification of acute otitis media, otitis media with effusion and chronic suppurative otitis media. Lack of consistency means that meta-analyses of studies may be comparing different diseases and may make the final conclusions spurious.

We have a database of over 100 otitis media prevalence studies from around the world from another systematic review. The student will be expected to re-do this search to update the included study list and then read the articles to collate terminology used. The student will be expected to assist with analysing these data to determine the degree of international consistency and help with creation of a manuscript for submission to an international peer reviewed journal. All of these activities will be with close supervision and support. Students who participate actively and enthusiastically in these activities will be offered authorship on the paper. We anticipate the manuscript would be suitable for publication in an international general medical or otolaryngology journal.

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