

Pharmacy Spotlight: Otomax® Ointment

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

- **Medication type:**

Prescription-only combination steroid, antibacterial, and antifungal ointment

- **Active ingredient:**

Betamethasone, gentamicin, and clotrimazole

- **Dosage form:**

Ointment

- **Manufacturer:**

Schering-Plough

- **Major use:**

For the treatment of acute and chronic ear infections

- **How it works:**

Betamethasone can ease itching and inflammation, while gentamicin and clotrimazole work together to get rid of the source of the painful infection, whether it is caused by bacteria or yeast. Antibiotic ear medications should be used only after a diagnosis of a bacterial or yeast infection is made by your veterinarian.

Otomax® Ointment SUCCESS STORY:

Dog's Name: Pokey

Breed: Cocker Spaniel

Age: 2 years

His story: Pokey was a young, exuberant Cocker Spaniel, who loved kids, especially the ones he lived with. He would romp and play in the yard in the daytime, and cuddle with them at night.

One day, though, seemingly out of the blue, Pokey lifted his lip in a snarl when his owner gave him a pat on the head and an affectionate ear rub.

When his owner thought about it, he realized that Pokey had been scratching at his ears and shaking his head a lot lately. When Pokey's owner looked at his ears, she noticed that they had some discharge and smelled unpleasant, so she called her veterinarian and made an appointment.

The veterinarian examined Pokey and took his recent history. She

examined his ears carefully with an otoscope and saw that they were red and swollen inside. When she took a sample of the discharge and looked at it under a microscope, she saw that it contained some yeast, and determined that Pokey had a middle ear infection caused by yeast buildup. She questioned the owner and found that Pokey often got his ears in the water dish. The veterinarian suggested getting a stainless steel bowl with a narrow opening, so Pokey's ears would not get into his water. She also prescribed an ointment called Otomax that would ease the pain of the ear infection and also fight the yeast or any type of secondary bacterial infection. The veterinarian said that Pokey's ears needed to be cleaned regularly, not only for the ointment to work, but to help prevent future ear infections.

Outcome: Pokey's ears cleared up after 10 days of using the [Otomax®](#), and since his owner has been cleaning and drying his ears often, he has not had a problem since.

For full details on this medication, download the [free patient information sheet](#).