

FOR DR. RANDE LAZAR, AUTUMN IS ENT PRIME TIME

Sick kids and worried parents know where to turn for help when back-to-school illnesses turn serious.

“People can’t decide when to get sick. Many folks need options besides weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. That’s why we’re open Saturdays. I don’t want my patients to get lost in the ER triage pool. If you are up on a Saturday with a sore throat or inflamed sinuses, or your child’s ear infection has returned for the third time, you know where to find me.”



Rande Lazar, MD

It’s officially full-on fall, and for parents of young kids, the gloss of back-to-school spirit isn’t quite as shiny as it was. New shoes are scuffed, once-pristine backpacks are cluttered with papers—and viruses are getting passed around.

For ENT Memphis physician Rande Lazar, MD, who treats patients of all ages, fall means a sharp uptick in visits by sick kids whose common colds have morphed into something more serious.

“Schools and daycares can be a breeding ground for viral illnesses,” says Dr. Lazar. “With summer over, kids are suddenly in a room full of other kids for six or more hours a day, sharing toys and books, sharing food at the lunch table, and not always washing hands or covering a sneeze. Once one child gets sick, others in the class are sure to follow. It’s a cycle that goes on every fall in every daycare and school in every country around the world.”

We all know the signs: runny nose, malaise, sore throat. Most resolve on their own in a week or so or perhaps with the help of a round of antibiotics from the family doctor. But sometimes such illnesses can dig in for weeks or even months and become serious, painful, and even life-threatening. Extended absences can mean lost work for parents—and a threat to the economic health of the household.

The three most common reasons worried parents bring their kids to see Dr. Lazar at ENT Memphis in the fall are otitis media (ear infection), sinusitis (sinus infection brought on by a cold), and adenotonsillitis (swelling of the adenoids and tonsils, also often precipitated by an entrenched upper respiratory infection).

“Ear infections are usually caused by blocked eustachian tubes in the middle ear, a condition which does not allow air in or fluid out,” says Dr. Lazar. Chronic ear infections in young children, he continues, can be improved by the implantation of ventilating tubes. Severe or chronic sinus infections that are resistant to antibiotics can be alleviated with endonasal sinus surgery or balloon sinuplasty (the placement of a small, flexible balloon catheter to hold sinuses open and allow them to drain). Tonsils and adenoids that are infected and large enough to cause obstructive sleep apnea can be surgically removed. Dr. Lazar performs all of these procedures and more.

“I became a doctor to help patients, and I take that oath very seriously,” he says. “I think of each appointment as a partnership built on trust, a personal relationship built in a short period of time.”

CERTIFICATIONS

ENT Memphis was founded in 1970 but stays firmly up to date with the latest medical technology. Earlier this year the practice received certification in computed tomography imaging of the sinuses and temporal bone from the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission. But it’s Dr. Lazar’s patients that are at the heart of his practice.



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