

MEMPHIS + HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Year-Round ENT Care

With ear, nose, and throat (ENT)-related illnesses on the rise, ENT MEMPHIS stands ready to provide experienced care for patients.



Winter usually sees an uptick in ear, nose, and throat (ENT) illnesses. COVID-19 makes things even worse.

Its symptoms often resemble those of a typical upper respiratory infection, while many of the side effects of long-haul COVID-19 plague the head and neck. This collision of maladies makes it all the more important to visit an ENT specialist for an accurate diagnosis.

For decades, fellowship-trained pediatric otolaryngologist Rande Lazar, M.D., has cared for children and adults needing expert treatment for a range of ENT conditions. Today, he and the team at ENT MEMPHIS are committed to serving their community amid a surge of ENT-related illnesses in this third year of the pandemic.

Among the conditions Dr. Lazar treats is the upper respiratory infection—a perennial winter ailment that hits children especially hard. These cases were down last year due to school closures, but they're likely to surge with students back in the classroom. Characterized by nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, fever, and a wet or dry cough, an upper respiratory infection causes restless sleep, fever, and irritability, as well as ear infections among small children.

If symptoms persist more than a few days, it's time to visit a primary care provider, who refers persistent cases to Dr. Lazar. Depending upon the situation, Dr. Lazar might prescribe stronger medication, tonsil or adenoid removal, or ventilating tubes in the ears, which are all treated by the practitioners at ENT MEMPHIS. "Each situation is assessed individually," Dr. Lazar says. "That's why it's important for a specialist to see the patient to determine an appropriate course of therapy."



OVERLAPPING SYMPTOMS

With more people recovering from COVID-19, the medical community is getting a broad picture of the disease's long-haul side effects—among them, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), hearing loss, and anosmia or dysgeusia (the loss or alteration of taste and smell). Many of these symptoms overlap with ENT-related conditions. For example, tinnitus could be a side-effect of COVID-19—or it could be the result of noise exposure, genetics, or a brain tumor.

Whatever the case, a trip to an ENT specialist is warranted, says Dr. Lazar. "You have to eliminate other possibilities before you can assign COVID-19 as the cause," he says. "Otherwise, you might miss more serious underlying conditions."

ENT MEMPHIS conducts rigorous in-office testing and refers patients for MRI or CT scans if necessary. It's better to err on the side of caution, says Dr. Lazar. "Our ability to provide state-of-the-art CT scans on-site is exceedingly valuable to the patient. Neurological causes and tumors are critical issues, and we want to identify those as early as we can," he adds.

CONVENIENT ALLERGY TREATMENT

Winter isn't the only time when ENT issues flare up. Seasonal and environmental allergies can be debilitating. ENT MEMPHIS offers on-site allergy testing and immunotherapy with an allergy-specialty company, Allergia. Patients receive injections once a week and on weekends, if needed; some may even qualify for at-home therapy. Typically, the treatment is successful over time.

"This is one-stop shopping for allergy treatment," says Dr. Lazar. "The convenience of on-site allergy therapy is a game-changer for someone who's battled allergies their entire life."



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