

# Otitis media

I am in the middle  
of a controversy  
with your mother,  
and her mother  
about why you have  
been pulling at your ear,  
while you just sit there  
with pampered potbelly  
saying nothing.

The crunch of the  
examining table's  
crinkled paper in  
your double-fisted  
hands makes you  
smile responsively and  
tune out their  
cacophony  
over antibiotics.

They do not buy into  
my normal exam  
or the presence  
of sticky waxy  
or the idea that  
you just found your  
ears after six months;  
or my internal thought  
you are just being a baby.

So they pack you up  
in haste, unsatisfied  
with me because of  
your habit, acquired  
from watching too much  
baseball with dad and his  
ESPN babysitter who has  
infected you with signaling  
everyone to steal second.

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