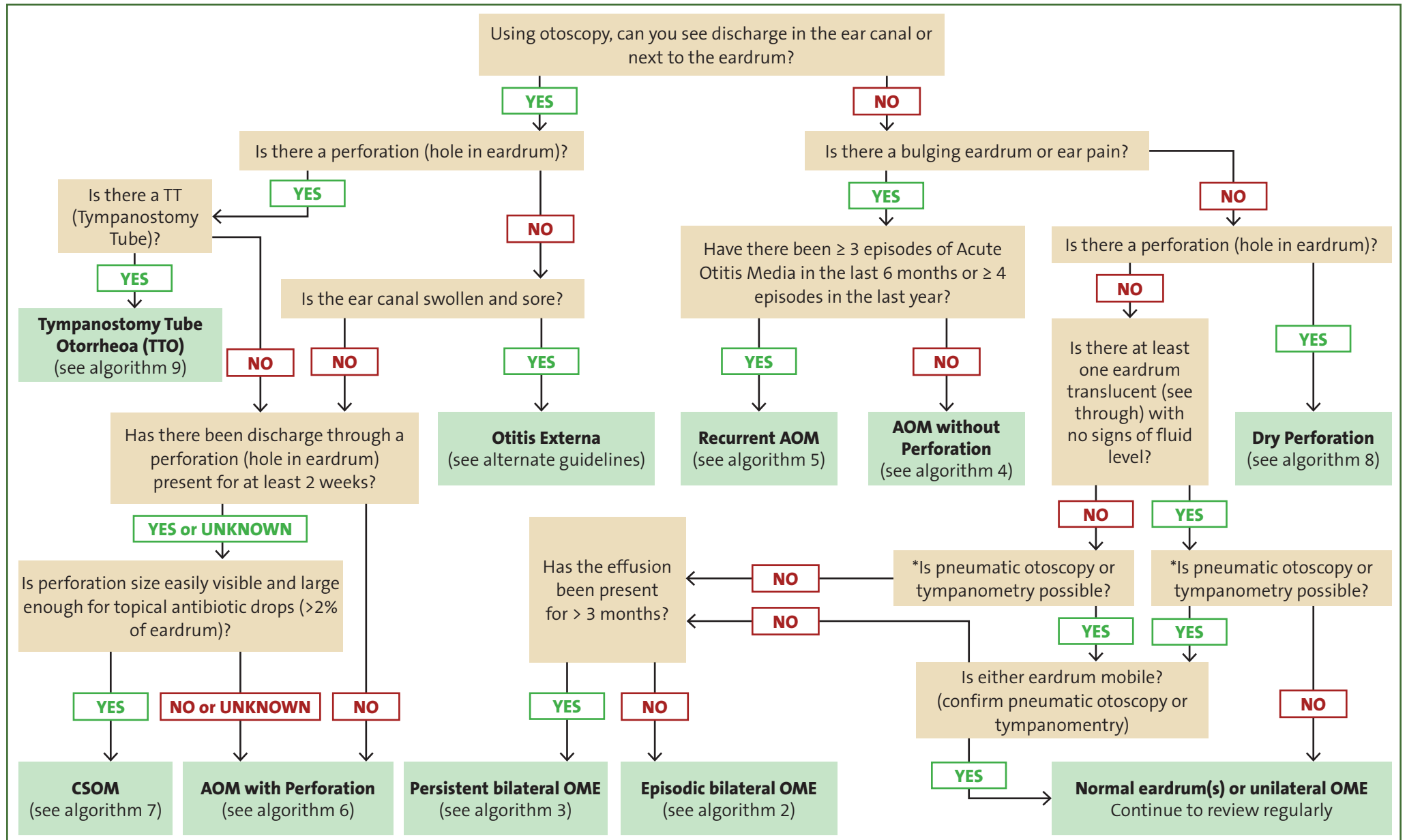# ALGORITHM 1: DIAGNOSIS Could this child have a middle ear infection (otitis media)?
## (Use this Algorithm during examination and management of both ears accordingly)

**Using otoscopy, can you see discharge in the ear canal or next to the eardrum?**

- **YES**
  - **Is there a perforation (hole in eardrum)?**
    - **YES**
      - **Is there a TT (Tympanostomy Tube)?**
        - **YES** → **Tympanostomy Tube Otorrheoa (TTO)** (see algorithm 9)
        - **NO**
          - **Has there been discharge through a perforation (hole in eardrum) present for at least 2 weeks?**
            - **YES or UNKNOWN**
              - **Is perforation size easily visible and large enough for topical antibiotic drops (>2% of eardrum)?**
                - **YES** → **CSOM** (see algorithm 7)
                - **NO or UNKNOWN** → **AOM with Perforation** (see algorithm 6)
            - **NO** → **AOM with Perforation** (see algorithm 6)
    - **NO**
      - **Is the ear canal swollen and sore?**
        - **YES** → **Otitis Externa** (see alternate guidelines)
- **NO**
  - **Is there a bulging eardrum or ear pain?**
    - **YES**
      - **Have there been ≥ 3 episodes of Acute Otitis Media in the last 6 months or ≥ 4 episodes in the last year?**
        - **YES** → **Recurrent AOM** (see algorithm 5)
        - **NO** → **AOM without Perforation** (see algorithm 4)
    - **NO**
      - **Is there a perforation (hole in eardrum)?**
        - **NO**
          - **Is there at least one eardrum translucent (see through) with no signs of fluid level?**
            - **NO**
              - ***Is pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry possible?**
                - **NO** → **Has the effusion been present for > 3 months?**
                  - **YES** → **Persistent bilateral OME** (see algorithm 3)
                  - **NO** → **Episodic bilateral OME** (see algorithm 2)
                - **YES**
                  - **Is either eardrum mobile? (confirm pneumatic otoscopy or tympanomentry)**
                    - **YES** → **Normal eardrum(s) or unilateral OME** Continue to review regularly
            - **YES**
              - ***Is pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry possible?**
                - **YES**
                  - **Is either eardrum mobile? (confirm pneumatic otoscopy or tympanomentry)**
                - **NO** → **Normal eardrum(s) or unilateral OME** Continue to review regularly
        - **YES** → **Dry Perforation** (see algorithm 8)

*Pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry is required to accurately diagnose OME