

In “Plain Language”

**Translating Medical Jargon to Enhance Practical
Understanding for EI Providers and Families**

About Me & Disclosures

Psychologist

- Written lots of reports
- Worked in medical systems
- Presented at IEP meetings
- Provided guidance for families



A Few WORDS about Terminology



Presentation



Not what is “sounds like”....

Unremarkable

It's
all
good.

Impressive



Progressing



**ITS GETTIN'
WORSE**



Unknown Etiology

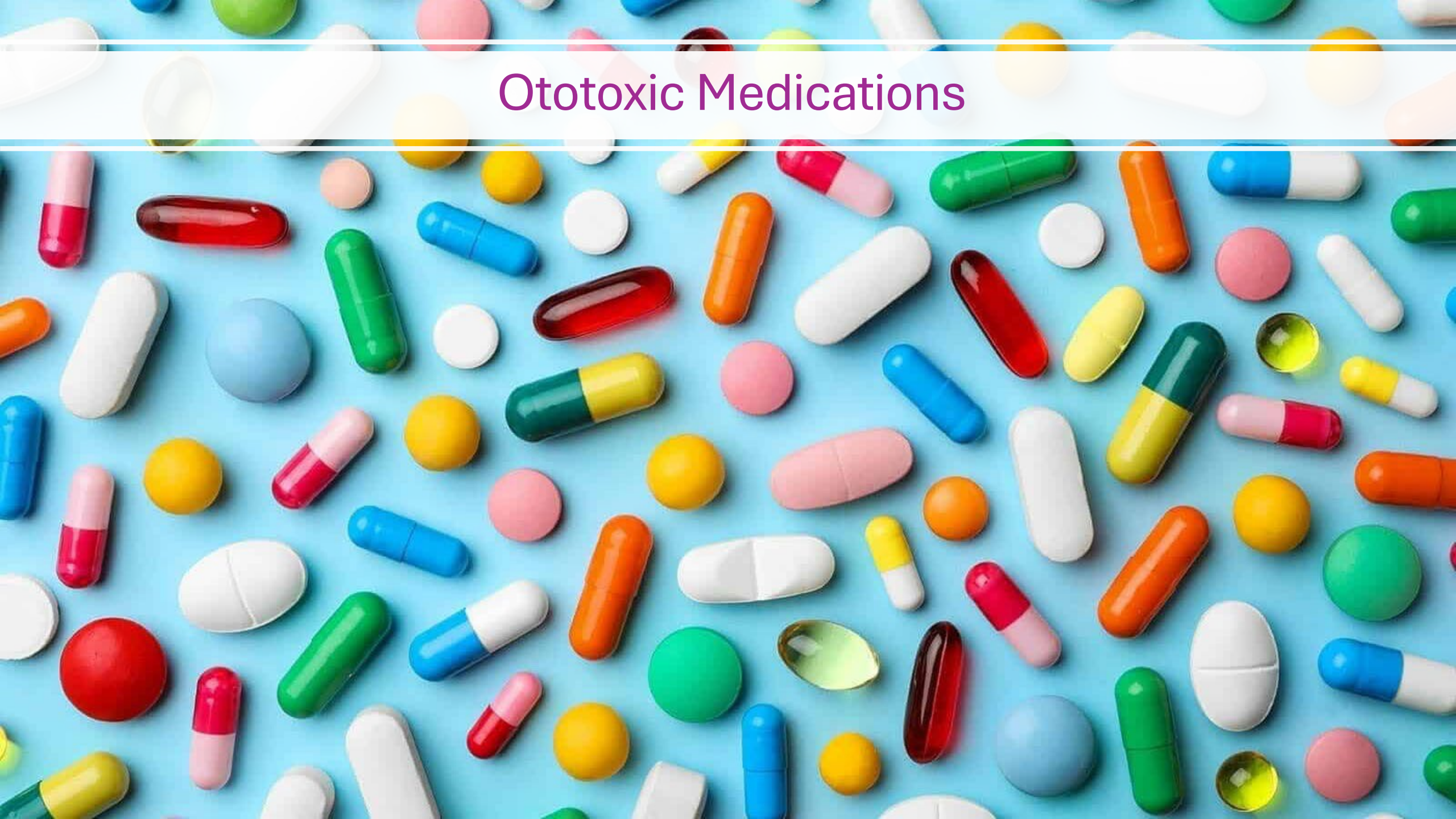
Medical Complexities Associated with Reduced Hearing



Vestibular Issues



Ototoxic Medications



Colors of Earwax

Normal earwax

Off white to yellow

- fresh earwax

Yellow to orange

- fresh earwax

Darker orange

- sticky
- flaky
- older earwax that has picked up debris

Orange to brown

- thick
- sticky
- very old earwax

Pale orange

- dry, old earwax

Signs of a problem

Yellow to green

- runny pus drainage from an ear infection

Green

- foul smell
- significant ear infection

Wax with streaks of blood

- scratch, injury, or bug bite in the ear canal
- ruptured eardrum if wet and runny

Gray

- buildup of dust or other particles in the ear

Black

- wax buildup
- impacted earwax

Cerumen

Psychological/ Neuropsychological Constructs



Words You Might See in Reports

Avolition

Inability to initiate and persist in goal-directed activities

Cognition

Thinking, reasoning, remembering, imagining

Developmental

Related to processes of growth & maturation

Expected progress

Development/growth aligning with expectations for the condition



Words that Describe “Presentation”

Flat affect

Limited expression of emotions

Increased arousal

Highly alert; outbursts of anger/irritability

Labile

Easily changed; often “up and down”



Internally distracted

Busy with own thoughts & actions

Requires [maximal/moderate] support

Amount of effort required to engage child and complete the assessment

Self-directed

Does down thing; difficult to keep on task; defiant

More Words
Describing
Presentation



Other Professionals Involved in Care

Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician

MD who considers medical, developmental, & behavioral aspects of presenting problems

Neurologist

MD specializing in the nervous system (e.g., seizures, CP, structural concerns)

Neuropsychologist/Neuropsych Assessment

Assesses brain function and behaviors. Including cognition, memory, attention, motor skills, learning and problem-solving

Otolaryngologist

Ear-nose-throat doctor; Could be a CI surgeon

Geneticist

Specialist trained in the study of genes and heredity



Let's Discuss!

What are Your Questions?

