

Post-Operative Instructions: Tympanostomy Tubes

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Your child may have some discomfort immediately after surgery. Pain medication will be given to help control the discomfort.
- After the immediate post-operative period there should be minimal discomfort.
- The purpose of the tubes, which have been placed in your child's ear drums, is to allow air to be present in the middle ear space, not for fluid drainage.
- If your child had a significant amount of fluid in the middle ear space, there may be slight drainage from the ears for a few days after the surgery. This should not last more than 2-3 days. If the drainage lasts longer, you need to notify our office.
- If your child had a lot of fluid or infected fluid in the middle ear an ear drop may be prescribed for use to help clear the ear.
- If your child had very thick fluid in the middle ear with some hearing depression, they may have a temporary sensitivity to noises. The ear will however adapt to normal sounds very quickly.
- The most important part of your child's care, while the tubes are in the ear drum, is to keep the ears dry. Water can flow through the tube carrying bacteria into the middle ear space, causing a middle ear infection. A splash or two will not be a problem but you should avoid getting a lot of water in the ear canal, or allowing the patient to submerge their ears under water.
- You may use ear putty or ear plugs to help keep water out of the ears.
- Swimming and putting the head under water in the bath tub should not be allowed unless proper molded ear plugs are used. These can be obtained by seeing our audiologist at the time of your first post-operative visit.

FOLLOW-UP:

- The first post-operative visit should be scheduled for two weeks after surgery or sooner if directed.
- It is very important that your child **be seen every three months** to be sure the tubes are functioning and come out of the ear drum properly.
- If your child develops an ear infection while the tubes are in place in the ear drum, it is usually not painful unless the tube is blocked. Most of the time you will see drainage from the ear. The drainage can be clear, blood-tinged, or colored. For proper treatment please call our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment at (801) 566-8304.
- For after hour emergencies, please call 801-596-6665.