

Myringotomy Tube Placement (Ear Tubes)

After the initial recovery, your child may resume normal activities. Nausea is not uncommon after anesthesia, and you may give your child liquids until this improves. Antibiotic ear drops will be sent home with your child. Please use three drops, three times per day for three days in each ear. Do not refrigerate the drops. Room temperature is fine. Some children may experience a bitter taste with ear drops. This is normal. Keep the drops in a safe location in case you are asked to use the drops again. Some bloody oozing or mucus discharge is normal. It will typically stop on its own. If you are concerned, call the office.

Ear Protection from Water

For the first two weeks after surgery, do your best to keep water out of the ears. A cotton ball covered with Vaseline works well. Most young children can be bathed safely after the initial two weeks.

Surface swimming in a clean pool is OK, but we discourage diving more than a few feet under the water. If you have an older child who likes to swim, we advise earmolds. Custom earmolds are available in the office.

Drainage

A small amount of waxy drainage is normal. Drainage that looks like blood, pus or mucus usually signals infection. If this occurs, use the antibiotic ear drops. Call our office during business hours so that we may schedule an appointment. Please do your best to call us directly. Drainage accompanied by fever or swelling behind the ear may be more serious, and if this is the case, please make sure you speak with the on-call physician. Sometimes this requires evaluation in the emergency room.

Routine visits

Your postoperative visit will usually occur about two weeks after surgery and will be scheduled by our surgery schedulers. Routine visits may occur periodically while the tubes are in place, and we will perform hearing assessments from time to time as well. Regular follow-up while the tubes are in place is important. We will monitor your child periodically to ensure healthy ears.

Please follow our entire protocol and notify our office if you have questions or problems.

We are here for you and your family!