



Myringotomy and Tube Placement for Children

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Your child has had surgery that is called myringotomy and tube placement. This simply means that a small hole has been made in the eardrum(s) and a tube(s) placed in the hole. This tube will help to keep the middle ear clear. Because there will be a hole in the eardrum, you must try to keep the child's ears dry.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the ear drops as prescribed: place three drops in the operated ear(s) three times a day for three days after the surgery. This helps prevent infection and prevents blockage of the new tube(s).
2. Do not put any other ear drops in the ear(s) unless approved by your physician.
3. Please use children's Tylenol (acetaminophen) as directed for any minor discomfort that may occur after surgery.
4. Please have the child gradually resume a normal diet when they tolerate it.
5. It is hard to limit a child's activity but please encourage them to take it easy the day of surgery.
6. Keep the ear(s) dry. Please have the child use waterproof earplugs or a piece of cotton coated with Vaseline in the ear(s) when they are showering or swimming. If the child swims, they will need to use the earplugs AND an ear band or swim cap to keep water out of the ears.
7. If the child has been prescribed medicine(s) by a Doctor, please continue to give the child the medicine(s) as directed. If you have any questions about any medicine that your child is now taking, please ask.
8. Occasionally a small amount of blood or drainage may ooze from the ear canal after this operation. This is normal. Just continue the ear drops as directed.
9. Please call if the child develops any problems such as:
 - Temperature greater than 101.5°F
 - Persistent nausea or vomiting
 - Pain uncontrolled by Tylenol
10. Please follow up on _____ at _____ for further post-operative care.
11. Call if you have any further questions or concerns.