



MYRINGOTOMY AND TUBE PLACEMENT

Postoperative Issues

1. Pain

Usually there is little or no pain after tube placement. Such pain should be adequately controlled with acetaminophen (Tylenol, Panadol, Temptra, ect.). Please refer to the package insert for the dosage appropriate for your child's age and weight. Please call if your child appears to be having pain despite these medications.

2. Eardrops

A prescription for antibiotic eardrops is typically given to parents. The medicated drops are used to prevent infection, which can be caused by tube insertion. They are to be given as 4 drops to each ear, two times per day, for three days after the procedure. Directions for use: Shake the bottle so the particles are evenly distributed prior to use. Place 4 drops in the ear canal with the head tilted to the other side. Push several times on the part of the outer ear just in front of the ear canal to force the drops deep into the ear canal. Cotton can then be placed in the outer portion of the canal. Tilt the head to the other side and repeat the procedure.

3. Diet

There are no dietary restrictions following tube placement. Some children may have mild nausea or occasional vomiting because of general anesthesia, which usually resolves after a day or two.

4. Drainage

Drainage from one or both ears is not unusual for 2 or 3 days after surgery. Such drainage is either clear or cloudy but, on occasion, can be bloody depending on how infected the ear was at the time of surgery. Because eardrops are installed at the time of tube placement, it is very common to see weepage on the cotton plug or pillowcase the first day. Significant cloudy, foul smelling, or bloody drainage beyond three days following surgery is unusual. It may be an indication of continued active ear infection and should be reported.

5. Ear Infections

Myringotomy tubes usually decrease both the number and the severity of ear infections. Some children may have no ear infections with tubes in place. With tubes in place, your child may not display the usual symptoms you have come to associate with ear infections such as ear pulling, or irritability. There may be fever and you might notice drainage on the outer ear. If your child should develop drainage from the ear, it should be reported.

6. Activity

There are no restrictions on activity after tube placement.

7. Hearing

The placement of ear tubes usually allows hearing to return to the child's normal baseline level. Please note that children may temporarily experience sensitivity to loud sounds after tube placement. The tubes themselves rarely can cause mild low pitch hearing loss, which resolves after the tubes fall out. A hearing test is typically carried out at the first follow up visit.

8. Bathing

Water entering the middle ear through the tubes can lead to ear infections. This rarely occurs during routine bathing or swimming with the head above water. In children who swim under water, it is necessary to use protective earplugs to prevent infection. A variety of foam or putty earplugs are available in most drugstores for this purpose. For children who require better protection, fitted earplugs can be ordered through our audiologist.

9. Follow-up

We see our patients back in 6 weeks after surgery if only ear tubes were placed. If other surgery such as Tonsillectomy was performed then follow up will be based on routine for the other surgery. Please call for an appointment or make arrangements during the "pre-op" visit.

10. Contact

In case of an emergency please contact (830) 627-3777