



Ear Tube Post Operative Instructions

1. Your child may be irritable or fretful during the first few hours after surgery. Generally, behavior returns to normal after a nap.
2. Liquids are allowed as soon as you leave the hospital. If nausea occurs, wait 30 minutes and try liquids again. A regular diet can be resumed three hours after leaving the surgery center.
3. There may be some blood in the ear or thick drainage for 2-3 days after surgery. Any continued drainage or temperature elevation may indicate infection in which case the office should be contacted.
4. The patient should be seen in the office for a follow-up visit 4 weeks after the procedure. The ear tubes usually stay in place for about 12 months. The patient should be seen in the office every 4-6 months until the tubes come out.
5. The ears should be kept dry for about 4 weeks. Hair may be washed, be careful to avoid water getting in the ears. Swimming is allowed. Mack's ear plugs may be used for additional protection if your child is prone to ear drainage. Our office offers custom fit earplugs. Extra protection should be taken when swimming in rivers, lakes, or oceans.
6. The patient may return to school or work the day following surgery.
7. Fever is not expected with tube placement, if your child has a fever 24 hours after surgery, call your pediatrician.
8. Flying is permitted after tubes are in place.
9. Please call the office if you see drainage from the ear which is green, yellow, or has a foul odor that does not disappear within 7-10 days of using the prescribed drops.

*If you have any questions or concerns following your surgery, please contact our office at **703-468-2205**. Our office is open from 8:30am to 5:00pm. You should be able to reach us after hours by calling the regular office number and following the instructions on the voice message.*