

EAR TUBES

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Children are irritable when awakening from anesthesia. This may last up to a few hours. There is generally no pain or discomfort from the tube(s) or the procedure.
2. Follow the directions of the surgeon regarding the use of ear drops and/or antibiotics. These are not prescribed in all cases.
3. Drainage, ranging from clear to bloody, is expected after surgery and is normal. If drainage persists for more than one week, please call the office.
4. Ear infections still can occur even with tubes in place; however, this almost always is indicated by ear drainage rather than pain or fever.
5. Recent studies have shown that ear plugs are not necessary for routine bathing or surface swimming in treated water. For older children who often swim underwater, custom ear molds may be recommended, and are available through our office.
6. Airplane flights are not a problem since an open ear tube does not allow unequal pressure to develop.
7. A follow-up appointment needs to be scheduled in 3 weeks after the procedure. You may contact our office at 205.414.1368 during regular business hours to schedule this appointment. Ear tubes should be checked by a physician every 6 months. We recommend prompt re-evaluation by our office for recurrent infections, drainage, or any question of hearing loss or speech/language developmental delay.