



# Myringoplasty/Ear tube removal

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. If you have any additional questions, please speak with the office nurse at (813) 262-1330.

## What is a myringoplasty?

A myringoplasty is a surgical repair of the eardrum performed at the same time a retained pressure equalization (PE) tube is removed from the ear drum. It can be thought of as a patch for the ear drum. When ear tubes stay in too long (approximately 3 years) they can in certain instances become problematic and need to be removed to prevent infections. A myringoplasty is a patch that helps lead to favorable healing of the ear drum at the same time the old ear tube is removed. Various patch materials can be used selected by the surgeon, such as gelfoam, gelfilm, paper, or fat.

## How long will it take to recover?

Surgery is outpatient. Children can usually go back to school the next day. Hearing may be muffled while healing, but usually returns to baseline within 3 weeks.

## What are the risks of a myringoplasty?

Risks of this procedure include failure to heal/re-perforation and need for a more definitive surgical repair (tympanoplasty) of the perforated ear drum.

## How can I take care of my child?

- 1. Pain:** This procedure is relatively pain free, but over the counter Tylenol and Motrin are great medications for ear surgery.
- 2. Water Precautions:** Place a cotton ball with vaseline in ear canal when showering to keep ear canal dry. Remove after shower. Do not submerge wound or ear underwater (i.e. bathe or swim) until cleared by your surgeon.
- 4. Post-Op Appointment:** A follow up appointment should be made in our office for 3 weeks after surgery to check on the healing of the patch.

## When should I call the doctor?

Call the office if your child experiences:

- A temperature over 101.5 F
- Ear pain not relieved with given medication
- If you have any concerns about how your child looks or feels