



Tympanoplasty

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 tympanic membrane perforation?

The tympanic membrane, also called the ear drum, is a thin membrane within the ear. It vibrates when sound touches it and helps to transmit the sound to the bones of hearing. A perforation is a hole. It may be caused by a bad infection, surgery (like ear tubes), or trauma, such as Q-tip use. Depending on the size or location of the perforation, hearing may be affected. A perforation may also be a concern for an increased risk for ear infections.

How long will it take to recover?

There will be dressing around your child's ear for the first 24 hours. The dressing may be uncomfortable but should not be so tight as to cause severe swelling. Most children experience mild to moderate levels of pain for the first 72 hours after surgery. Hearing will be muffled while healing due to the absorbable packing placed during surgery. Hearing usually returns to baseline within 8 weeks. Your child should be fine to return to school within 2-3 days after surgery, but may require preferential seating until cleared by Dr Hotchkiss. Your child may feel like his/her ears are "popping" starting about 3 weeks after surgery. This is due to the packing dissolving and is normal.

How can I take care of my child after surgery?

1. Pain- Most children are back to normal within 72 hours after surgery. If uncomfortable, please give Tylenol (Acetaminophen) every 4-6 hours or Motrin/Advil (Ibuprofen) every 6-8 hours as needed for pain.
2. Itching-If your child experiences itching behind the ear at the incision site, please give Benadryl (diphenhydramine), every 6 hours as needed.
3. Fever- A low grade fever less than 101° F may occur after surgery and may be treated with Tylenol (Acetaminophen) every 4-6 hours.
4. Bleeding- There may be some bleeding from the ear within 24 hours after surgery. This should be contained by the dressing.
5. Water Precautions- There should be no water exposure to the ear for 6-8 weeks after surgery. Please use an ear plug or a cotton ball dabbed with petroleum jelly for bath/shower. Dr Hotchkiss will advise when an ear plug is no longer required.
6. Activity- It is best for your child to rest at home the day of surgery. Try to keep his/her head elevated for the first 24 hours after going home. Discourage your child from blowing their nose. She/he may resume normal activities, including school, 2-3 days after surgery. No vigorous activity or PE for 3 weeks post-surgery. No swimming until cleared by Dr Hotchkiss.
7. Post-Op Appointment- A follow up appointment should be made in our office for 1 day post-surgery, 3-4 weeks after surgery, and 7-8 weeks after surgery. Please call if not already scheduled.
8. Prophylaxis Treatment- An antibiotic ear drop, such as Ciprodex, will be prescribed at your post op appointment, after the dressing is removed.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the office if your child experiences:

- Ear pain or ear drainage after 24 hours of treatment
- A temperature over 101° F
- If fevers persist more than 12 hours post-surgery
- Foul-smelling drainage from the ear
- Increased redness/swelling around his/her ear
- Dizziness
- Persistent headache
- Double or blurred vision
- If you have any concerns about how your child looks or feels

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