

Post-Operative Ear Tube Instructions

After surgery, it is not unusual to have a small amount of bloody fluid drain from the ears. Also, the child may experience a brief period of discomfort. Use the ear drops after the tubes have been inserted, placing three drops in each ear, three times a day, for three days. This is to ensure that the tubes stay open during the healing phase. Save the remaining medication for use as directed below.

If the child gets a cold, it would not be unusual to have a small amount of clear fluid drain from the ear. This is not harmful and will stop when the cold clears up. However, if a large amount of fluid continues to drain or if the fluid appears infected (whitish or yellowish in color) start the ear drops again (three drops, three times a day for three days). If, after completing the three day application, the drainage persists or the child develops increasing pain, he/she should be seen by the doctor.

Water must be prevented from entering the ears while the tubes are in place. This can be accomplished with any one of several types of ear plugs. The simplest is to rub a small amount of Vaseline into cotton and gently and carefully place into the outer ear (not in the canal). This will provide a good waterproof seal. Other options include the Mac Ear Plugs sold at most drug stores. Finally, custom fitted ear plugs can be made in our office for an additional charge. Should water accidentally enter the ear, an infection can be prevented by placing three drops of Cortisporin Otis Suspension (or Ciprodex) in the ear as soon as possible.

****For infants who are still bottle fed, it is suggested that the parent(s) bring a bottle of water or clear juice for use in the Recovery Room as opposed to milk or formula. General anesthesia can cause nausea and milk or formula will only intensify this effect. The patient may resume a normal diet once the anesthesia has fully worn off. You may consult the anesthesiologist with any further questions.*