

MYRINGOTOMY AND PLACEMENT OF VENTILATION TUBES

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

A small surgical incision (myringotomy) into the eardrum is made. The fluid from the middle is then suctioned out of this space, if present. Since this incision heals rapidly and we want to maintain an opening, a tube is then "buttoned" into the hole. It is very important to hold still for this procedure because there are some vital structures nearby. Because of this, small children require a general anesthetic.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Several days before the scheduled procedure your child will have a pre-op workup. This is to insure that he/she is in satisfactory health for the anesthetic. You might also have an appointment with the admitting department and sometimes the anesthesia personnel (the latter usually on the day of surgery).

THE DAY OF SURGERY

Come at the designated time. This usually is an hour before the scheduled surgery. You may go with your child to the doors of the operating room and wait there or in the lobby. The whole procedure takes between 15 to 25 minutes. He/she will then go to the recovery room. After about 15 minutes the recovery room nurse may let you come in and hold your child while he/she wakes up.

GOING HOME

When the child is fully awakes he/she may go home. Most children recover quickly and have very little pain. He/she may return to school the next day.

WHAT TO EXPECT

1. There should be very little, if any, pain. You can use Baby Tylenol or ibuprofen as needed.
2. There may be a scant bloody drainage for a couple of days after surgery, if this continues or is foul smelling or profuse please call.
3. Your child can resume his regular diet.
4. He/she may be frightened by everyday noises that he/she could not hear before.
5. If he/she gets a cold, he/she may have foul smelling drainage from the ears and needs to be placed on an antibiotic and eardrops. This will also happen if water gets into the ears.
6. You should have a post-op visit about 1-2 weeks after surgery.
7. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE EARS DRY. At bath-time you can use some Vaseline on cotton or a waterproof, moldable (like "Silly Putty") ear plug. If your child is a real "fish" in the bath or plans to swim then you can get some special molded plugs from the druggist or audiologist.
8. Oftentimes your doctor will have you use ear drops to the ears. If so, follow the instructions provided by your doctor.