

ALEX CHENG, M.D. | RAMIN IPAKCHI, M.D.

Myringotomy with Ear Tube Placement

Before Surgery

- Wear comfortable clothing for your surgery.
- Surgery takes very little time (10 minutes); please do not leave the waiting area, the doctor will come out and speak to you as soon as the surgery is completed.
- **NO EATING OR DRINKING ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT THE DAY BEFORE SURGERY**

After Surgery

- Keep ears dry. Patient must wear earplugs when swimming; they do not need to be worn while bathing.
- If the patient is irritable or uncomfortable after surgery, Tylenol or Motrin OTC can be given.
- Later that evening, do the other dose of the drops (usually Ciprodex or Floxin). Instructions include 5 drops in each ear twice a day for 3 days.
- Follow up appointment is usually 2 weeks after, a nurse from the office will call two days after your surgery and at that time, you will need to make your follow up appointment, if you have not done so.
- As long as there are no infections, you will need to follow up every 3 months thereafter for tube checks. A hearing test may also be recommended if you are concerned.
- If dirty water does enter the ear canal, do not panic just monitor for an infection.
- If an ear infection does occur, drainage will be noticeable from the ear. The drainage may be a variety of colors, have a foul smell, and even have a blood tinge. Office evaluation will be necessary.
- If drainage is heavy, gently flush with hydrogen peroxide using a baby bulb syringe, then dry the ear prior to using antibiotic drops.
- Most infections will clear with antibiotic eardrops; some infections may additionally require and antibiotic by mouth.
- Most infections clear up within 7-10 days.
- Tubes usually stay in the eardrum for 9-12 months and then fall out. Some tubes will fall out sooner, while others may stay in much longer. Usually, the holes left in the eardrum close spontaneously; in 1% of patients these holes may not close, and will require repair.
- 80% of children have one set of tubes and no ear problems when the tubes fall out.
- Call the office if you have any questions or concerns.