

TE★AS
EAR, NOSE & THROAT
SPECIALISTS, L.L.P.

817-540-3121

Postoperative instructions -- Tympanostomy Tubes

After tubes are placed in your child's ears, there is generally very little pain. Your child may be fussy and cranky, but this is generally due to the effects of the anesthetics. If he/she seems to have some discomfort, Tylenol or Motrin may be used.

You can expect some drainage for a few days after the tubes are in place, especially if there was a lot of pus in the ears at the time of surgery. The drainage may be bloody, or it may look like pus. A small amount of blood inside the tube can clot and render the tube ineffective. We will give you drops after the surgery to help keep you the tubes clear. Keep the drops at room temperature and use as directed. If you have drops left after, put them in the refrigerator so they will keep longer. If your child develops a new infection (and you will know immediately because the ear will start draining, your child will generally not run a fever or have pain), we may have you start the drops again. If your child was on antibiotics before the tubes, ask us if they need to be continued.

You may have heard from friends how difficult it is to care for a child with tubes, but that is not true. Unless your child begins to have recurrent infections after the tubes, you probably do not need to take special precautions. If your child swims deeper than a few feet underwater, you may want to keep water out of the ears.

We recommend Mack's Ear Wax which can be obtained at most pharmacies. Swimming in dirty water, like ocean water or lake water can be a problem. Please ask if you will be swimming in the ocean or lake. If some water does get into the ear, don't panic. It is unlikely to cause a problem. If you are concerned, you can put a few of the prescription ear drops into your child's ears.

Do not use over-the-counter eardrops in your child's ear while he/she has tubes.

Please call the office to make an appointment for a postoperative checkup in two weeks.

If you have any questions or problems, feel free to call our office. The phones are answered 24 hours a day for emergencies.