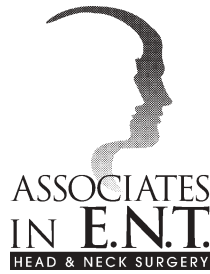


SURGEONS
HATHAWAY K. HARVEY, M.D.
CHRIS ST. CHARLES, M.D.
TODD E. FOWLER, M.D.
PETER M. HUNT, M.D.
DOUGLAS A. LIENING, M.D.



HOME CARE AFTER HAVING TUBES

Explanation of Procedure: The procedure done today was a myringotomy (a small incision made in the eardrum) and insertion of tubes. The tubes are ventilating tubes, not drainage tubes, which allow equal pressure on both sides of the eardrum. This is usually performed to treat recurrent ear infections and/or fluid in the middle ear.

What to Expect: Depending on the condition at the time of surgery, the ears may or may not drain. If they drain, they may drain for 2 or 3 days and the drainage may be clear, purulent (thick and cloudy, like pus) or bloody. You may choose to place a dry cotton ball in the outer ear to absorb the drainage. Please change the cotton balls when soiled. If the ears drain and no drops were prescribed, please call our office **(267-6738)**.

Generally it is permissible for water to get into the ear when bathing, swimming, etc. However, if your doctor instructs you to keep the patient's ears dry, he may suggest ear plugs or ear putty during bath and shampoo. A temporary way to keep the ears dry is to insert a cotton ball dipped in petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline) into the outer ear when bathing or shampooing. The petroleum jelly side of the cotton ball should be away from the ear. Do not use a dry cotton ball because this will act like a wick and soak the water into the ear.

Do not clean the ear with Q-tips. Use a wash cloth which has been wrung almost completely dry.

Some ear discomfort may be experienced. If the tubes were placed without a tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy being done, discomfort will be minor and Tylenol or Children's Advil should be sufficient.

Medication Administration:

1. For **pain relief** you may administer acetaminophen products (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil) up to every 4 hours following package directions.

2. Your doctor may have given you drops to use in the ear. Placing drops in the ear **may cause considerable discomfort**. Occasionally eye drops are prescribed for use in the ears. Warming drops in the hands until they approach body temperature also decreases discomfort. Do not use any drops unless directed by your physician. Call the office **(423/267-6738)** if the patient is extremely uncomfortable or irritable after receiving drops.

Give _____ drops, using _____ drops in the draining ear(s) _____ times a day for _____ days.