

Postoperative Care Instructions for Ventilation Tube Placement

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General Instructions

1. Most children recover from surgery and the anesthetic within a few hours. Most children do not require pain medication afterwards, but acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be given if your child experiences discomfort or is fussy. A few children may experience nausea or fatigue, which should resolve on its own within a few hours.
2. If antibiotic ear drops have been prescribed, use them as directed.
3. Your child may resume normal activities, including school or daycare, the day after surgery.

Ear Drainage

1. Drainage from the ears may occur during the first days following tube insertion. This represents clearance of any residual middle ear fluid and can be any color (clear, cloudy or bloody). It is also normal if you do not see any ear drainage postoperatively.
2. Ear drainage should resolve by the time you have finished the prescribed ear drops. Please notify the office if ear drainage persists or starts again once you have finished giving the ear drops.

Water Precautions

1. Try to protect your child's ears from water. She/he should wear the ear plugs provided to you in the bath, shower, or when swimming. If you were not given a set of ear plugs prior to surgery, you can protect the ears with cotton balls coated in Vaseline. We will provide you with one set of ear plugs at the follow-up visit.

Follow up

1. Your child should be seen in the office 2-3 weeks after surgery to check the position of the tubes, to see that they are open and functioning well, and to arrange any post-operative hearing testing that may be appropriate. Please call our office to schedule this appointment if it has not already been arranged.
2. Please contact our office with any problems or questions. If a problem arises after hours on an evening or weekend, call the office number to reach the physician on call. Our office number is **(401) 274-2300**.