

Eardrum Surgery (Tympanoplasty)

Surgery to repair a hole in the eardrum is called a tympanoplasty.

What do I need to know before the surgery?

Do not give your child these medicines at least 2 weeks before surgery. They increase the chance of bleeding during and after surgery.

- **Ibuprofen** (Motrin®, Advil®, Pediaprofen®)
- **Naproxen**
- **Aspirin**

You can give Tylenol as needed. Do not stop any prescribed medicines without talking with your doctor. If your child is put on any medicine other than an antibiotic before surgery, please call our office.

- We try to schedule surgery as soon as possible. If you have not heard from us in 2 weeks, please call our office.
- Surgery is best done when your child is healthy. If your child has signs of illness, call your child's doctor or nurse right away. Surgery may be canceled if your child is ill or has a fever. Surgery can still be done if your child is on antibiotics for an ear infection.

What do I need to know after surgery?

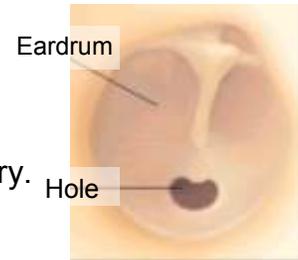
What to expect:

- Your child's ear will be packed with dissolvable packing. This may decrease hearing. Your child's hearing will slowly return as the packing dissolves.
- Your doctor will let you know when to use ear drops.
- There may be drainage with a little blood coming from the ear. If there is a cotton ball in the ear canal you may change it as needed.
- Your doctor will let you know when to remove any dressings from around the ear.
- It will take about 6 weeks to know the final results of the surgery. Please be patient and follow these directions during this time.

Pain:

Your child may have mild pain after surgery. Every child copes with pain differently. Give acetaminophen (Tylenol) as needed for pain. **If your child has bleeding issues, do not give ibuprofen.**

- Your doctor may prescribe a stronger prescription pain medicine. This medicine is called a narcotic. Some narcotics contain acetaminophen (Tylenol). If your child is taking a narcotic, check with your doctor before giving Tylenol.
- If your child needs more pain medicine, call the nursing line at (414) 266 2982. After hours call (414) 266-2000. Ask to have the ENT doctor on call paged.
- Be sure to follow the directions on the bottle label of all medicines you give your child



Diet

- Your child may drink clear liquids when fully awake.
- Start a normal diet when your child is hungry and ready to eat.

Follow-up care:

- If your child does not already have a post-op visit scheduled, call your doctor's office.
- Your child needs to be seen in the ENT Clinic in 1 to 2 weeks after surgery. At that visit we will check the outer incision sites, if any were made. The packing in the ear canal will not be taken out. We will not be able to see the ear drum at this time.

Bathing and swimming:

- Your child's ear will have packing that will dissolve. It holds the eardrum repair in place while it heals. Remember to keep the ear that had surgery dry until your follow-up appointment. Extra help and care is needed during bathing. No showers can be taken. Wash your child's hair in the sink with your child's head tilted back. An adult can help to keep water out of the repaired ear.
- Be very careful with water when bathing and hair washing. The ear must stay dry. Talk with your doctor if earplugs are needed.
- Follow strict water precautions with bathing and hair washing until the follow up appointment. The doctor will tell you how to cover the ear to keep water from getting in. You may be told to use cotton or ear plugs.
- No swimming or other activities that would let water get in the ear.

Activity:

- No bearing down or pushing that increases pressure in the ear, like when having a bowel movement.
- No nose blowing for 2 weeks. Try to hold the mouth open while sneezing.
- No strenuous sports until cleared by your doctor.
- No air travel until cleared by your doctor

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has:

- Severe pain.
- Any unusual bleeding or bruising.
- Creamy or foul-smelling drainage.
- A fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher.
- Dizziness, an upset stomach, or vomiting
- Special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

ENT Clinic: 414-266-2982. After hours call 414-266-2000 ask to have the ENT doctor on call paged.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.