

Myringotomy (ear tubes) - child

What to expect after surgery

- The surgeon has placed tiny, soft tubes in your child's eardrums. The tubes let fluid drain from the ears. With ear tubes, your child may have less pain, fewer ear infections and better hearing. Your child may be more sensitive to loud noises until he or she gets used to hearing normally.
- It is normal for a little yellow or pink fluid to leak from the ears for 2 or 3 days. Gently clean the outer ear with a warm washcloth. Do not clean inside the ear or use cotton-tipped swabs (Q-tips®).
- The tubes will fall out on their own in about a year. You may not notice because they are so small.

How to relieve pain

- If your child has pain, you can give acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®). Follow the directions on package for your child's age and weight.

Ear care

- The surgeon may prescribe ear drops. If so, to put in ear drops have your child lie down, pull the ear up and back, and put the drops into the ear canal.

Your child's activity

- Your child should rest for the remainder of the day.
- Your child can go back to school, daycare and usual activities the next day.
- Until the tubes come out, no bath water in the ears:
 - Your child can shower, but if taking a bath do not allow the bath water in the ears.
 - When swimming, do not swim under more than 3 feet of water. This is because of the pressure changes that can happen in deeper water.
 - You may need to buy ear plugs, if you have concerns please talk with your surgeon about bathing and swimming.

When to call the surgeon

- A fever – your child's temperature is higher than 38.5°C (101.3°F).
- Pain that is getting worse or not relieved with pain medication.
- Leaking from the ears that lasts more than 2 or 3 days.

After hours or on the weekend, call 905-521-5030 and ask to speak to the Plastic Surgeon or the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Surgeon on-call.

If you are not able to reach the surgeon, take your child to the Emergency Department.