



Tympanoplasty Post-op Care Sheet

What is a tympanoplasty?

It is an operation to close a hole in the ear drum, also known as a perforation.

What is the advantage of having the hole closed?

Children with a hole in their ear drum can be sensitive to getting water in their ears. Closing the hole can improve water sensitivity and eliminate the need for ear plugs. Also, if there is a hearing loss associated with the hole in the ear drum, it usually improves. On rare occasions, and this is complicated, if the hearing loss is from stiffness in the ear bones, the hearing can get a little worse after surgery.

How long does surgery take?

Surgery can take anywhere from 1-3 hours, depending on the size and complexity of the hole in the ear drum.

What to expect after surgery?

Pain is mild to moderate and usually can be controlled with Tylenol or Motrin. If your child comes out of surgery with a headband dressing, it can be removed the day after the procedure. Your child may wear it longer if it makes them feel comfortable. The head band is also Velcro, so it can be adjusted as needed. Whether your child has a headband or not, there will be a cotton ball in the ear that needs to be changed daily. When the cotton ball is removed, you will see blood stained material deeper in the ear canal. This is absorbable packing material placed during surgery to protect the ear drum and should be left alone. Don't worry if there is some material that sticks to the cotton ball in between changes. There is still plenty of packing remaining in the canal.

Bathing

Keep water from going directly down the ear canal for 4 weeks. They can still bath as long as the ear is covered. You may clean around the ear with a damp cloth. Hydrogen peroxide with a q-tip is helpful for cleaning the folds of the ear.

Activities

Avoid anything vigorous for 4 weeks especially if it involves running, tumbling, or jumping.

Follow-up

I like to see the kids 5-10 days after the procedure for an initial check. At this visit, patients are started on antibiotic ear drops. A second appointment 3-4 weeks after the procedure is also made. If you wish, all postoperative appointments can be scheduled through my surgical



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scheduler, while you are making arrangements for the surgery. The first hearing test is best done 8-12 weeks after the procedure.

Success Rates

It depends a little on size of hole and location, I have kept track of my own and greater than 85% achieve closure of the drum within 6 weeks. This number rises to above 90% at a year.