

INSTRUCTIONS AFTER BILATERAL MYRINGOTOMY AND TUBES

1. Tubes were placed into the eardrum to help with repeat infections or fluid.
2. Drainage is expected after surgery. It may be bloody, yellow, or may not occur at all. Vasocidin is an eye drop that is used in the ear. It contains vinegar, steroid, and sulpha and does sting a bit. Place 3 drops into each ear, 3 times a day, for 3 days. Floxin is used if stinging is severe or there is an allergy to sulpha.
3. Your child cannot feel the tubes, and they do not cause pain.
4. Tubes stay in the eardrum for an average of 6-24 months. If a tube comes out early, it may need to be replaced. If a tube stays in longer than 4 years, I recommend that the tube be removed to reduce the risk of a hole being left in the eardrum.
5. With tubes in place and open, the fluid cannot recur. The number of infections is usually reduced. It is not uncommon for children to still get one or two infections with the tubes in place.
6. With tubes in place and open, ear infections will have drainage that may be brown, red, green, or smell bad. Usually children will not have pain or fever. When drainage occurs, start using eardrops for several days. If the infection has not responded, then return to see your pediatrician or me. The ear canal may need to be cleaned, or your child may need an antibiotic by mouth.
7. If your child develops a fever with the tubes in place, have your child examined by a physician. If the tubes are in place and open and there is no drainage from the ear, then the infection is not from the ear. If antibiotics are prescribed, please give them to your child, but realize that the infection is not likely from the ears.
8. For the first three weeks, the child's head should not be dunked under water until the eardrum has had time to seal around the tube. It is OK to wash the hair during the first three weeks. Water exposure in pools, showers, and baths is tolerated well. Earplugs and ear bands are recommended for swimming in lakes and oceans. Lake water has many particles in it and is likely to cause an infection. Ocean water stings because of high salt content.
9. A return visit is needed at three weeks to make sure the tubes are healed in place. There is no charge for this visit, but there is a charge for a hearing test, if needed. After that, return visits should be rescheduled for every 12 months with your pediatrician or myself.