

POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EAR TUBES



Ear tubes are performed in the operating rooms under brief general anesthesia. The patient will usually spend 1-2 hours in recovery room before being discharged home.

Postoperative ear drops: You will be asked to administer ear drops twice a day for 5-7 days. Usually, these ear drops will be given to you before discharge. If they are not, you will be provided a prescription. Make sure to pump the small cartilage over the ear opening 4-5 times after giving the drops.

Water restrictions: Unless specifically directed by your surgeon, you do not have to keep water out of your child's ear after ear tube placement. They can bathe and swim in chlorinated pools without wearing ear plugs. If your child is swimming in ponds, lakes, or rivers, he or she wear ear plugs or avoid going under water.

What to expect:

1. Mild ear discomfort may be experienced after the procedure and usually responds to Tylenol or ibuprofen.
2. A small amount of bloody or mucous discharge from the ears may be seen for several days after surgery.

When to call: Call for yellow or bloody ear discharge that does not respond to ear drops.

Follow up: Your surgeon will usually recommend follow up 3-4 weeks after the procedure. You will usually follow up every 6 months until the tubes fall out.