

TYMPANOSTOMY TUBE INSTRUCTIONS

Having tubes placed in the ears is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures. The operative is usually quick, relatively painless, and rarely associated with complications. Here are some suggestions to help make things go smoothly.

BEFORE SURGERY:

In general, eating and drinking before surgery is restricted in an effort to keep the stomach empty. Each facility has a different policy regarding this and we suggest that you check the enclosed food guidelines for your facility or call our office with any questions.

Surgery usually does not need to be cancelled because of an ear infection. (If this could be prevented the surgery would not be necessary).

DO – Feel welcome to be present in the operating room until your child falls asleep. (One parent only please).

Pain is usually minimal. If anything is needed, plain Tylenol is sufficient.

In general, it is not a problem if water gets into the ears after tube placement. In fact, no precautions need to be taken with routine bathing and swimming pool use. However, I do recommend waterproof earplugs if swimming in dirty or untreated water such as a lake or the ocean, or if your child likes to “swim” under water in the bath tub. Custom-made ear plugs can be purchased at our office if necessary.

Eardrops will be given to you. Place 3 to 4 drops in each ear at night for three nights. If your child complains of pain after you use them the first night, don't use them any more.

Call our office if you have any questions or problems.