

Dear parent:

After your child has undergone the scheduled tympanostomy tube placement, please follow the instructions below:

For the first three days following tube placement, use ear drops, three drops three times a day.

After the fourth day postoperatively, your child may swim and/or bathe as usual, including going under water.

Children may experience some discomfort with use of ear drops. If this is the case, use the drops after carrying them in your pocket for 30 minutes, bringing them to body temperature. This may be a short-term problem and using the drops would be appropriate. However if the child continues to experience discomfort, please contact us so we may prescribe different ear drops. Your child should return to our office yearly for a follow-up visit until the tubes have come out. In most cases, the tubes will fallout within three years. If the tubes are still in place after three years, we recommend that they be removed.

Some children experience drainage from the ear tubes. This may be due to exposure to dirty water or a viral infection involving the ear itself (i.e., with a cold or upper respiratory infection). Although indicating a possible infection, **the drainage should not alarm you**. Rather than seeing your pediatrician or going to the emergency room, we recommend that you use the ear drops you have at home -- **three drops three times a day for ten days**. If there is no improvement in symptoms after three or four days, please call our office. You will then be given a prescription to be taken orally for ten days. If the drainage persists after ten days of medication, you should call our office for an appointment to bring your child in. The ear should always be kept dry when drainage occurs. If your child experiences pain with drainage, you should call our office to discuss the problem with one of our nurses and an antibiotic will usually be prescribed at that time.

If you have any concerns not covered here or by your surgeon, please contact the office. After office hours the telephone answering machine will instruct you as to how to contact the physician on call.

Please keep these instructions on hand for future reference while your child has tubes in place.