

SURGICAL PROCEDURE:

TYMPANOSTOMY WITH TUBE INSERTION



Dr. Ulrich has determined that you, or a patient for whom you are legally responsible, have an abnormality of the ear which requires surgery. The operation is called a “tympanostomy” and consists of making an opening in the eardrum and placing a tube through the eardrum. This operation is usually done because of persistent infection in the middle part of the ear. Complications from this procedure are uncommon, but they do sometimes occur. It is possible that the patient will be no better after this procedure, and it is also possible the patient will be worse after the procedure than prior to it. Because of these facts Dr. Ulrich can make no guarantee as to the result that might be obtained from this operation. However, most patients do achieve the desired result.

Although it is very unlikely, damage to the tiny, sound-conduction bones of the ear is possible from this operation. Such damage could result in hearing loss and deafness. Infection may occur in the middle part of the ear after this procedure. Infection can result in a persistent drainage from the ear and prolonged illness. The tube that is placed in the ear may become dislodged, which could result in the need for further surgery. A rare complication of tympanostomy operations is nerve damage. Nerve damage could result in temporary or permanent weakness, pain, tingling and numbness of one side of the face and paralysis or the inability to move that side of the face. Allergic and other bad reactions to one or more of the substances used in the procedure are other very rare complications. Very, very rarely, allergic or bad reactions may cause death. There may be alternatives to this operation available to you, such as the use of medications. However, these alternative methods of treatment carry their own risk of complications and have a varying degree of success. Therefore, in those patients in whom tympanostomy with tube insertion is indicated, the operation may provide the patient with the best chance of successful treatment and the lowest risk of complications.

J. Martin Ulrich, D.O., F.O.C.O.O
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WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER

PE TUBE INSERTION



ACTIVITY & DIET

Most children are back to their normal activity within a few hours after surgery. Some children may experience nausea, vomiting, or fatigue from the general anesthetic. This should resolve within a few hours following surgery. Begin with a clear liquid diet, progress to a soft diet, and then return to a normal diet as your child feels like eating.

PAIN & TEMPERATURE

Most children do not have any post-operative pain. However, if your child is fussy or running a fever after surgery, give Tylenol (Acetaminophen) as directed. If pain becomes more severe or lasts longer than 3 days or if fever is greater than 102.5 degrees and not reduced with Tylenol, contact our office.

DRAINAGE

Slight ear drainage is normal after surgery. Drainage may be clear, pink or bloody. This drainage may be present for 2 to 4 days after surgery. If this drainage persists or changes in character, contact our office.

GENERAL CARE

Try to prevent water from entering the ear canal. During baths, showers and shampoos, your child's ears should be protected. Silicone ear putty or specially made ear molds can be inserted into the outer ear to block the canal. Either ear putty or ear molds should be used during swimming in lake or ocean water. Diving should be avoided. Ear plugs are not needed when swimming in pool water.

MEDICATION

Depending on the condition of the ears, the doctor may prescribe ear drops, and instructions will be provided on how to administer the ear drops upon picking up your prescription.

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT

A follow-up appointment has been made for you. Refer to your surgery letter for date and time. If this appointment needs to be changed, please contact our office.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS

If questions or problems arise during normal business hours, please do not hesitate to call the office at (810)695-3766. For post-surgical medical issues after normal business hours, call the office at (810) 695-3766 and follow the prompts to be connected to Dr. Ulrich. If unable to connect through the office, contact Genesys information at (810) 606-5000 to have Dr. Ulrich paged.

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