



Tympanoplasty

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. If you have any additional questions, please speak with the office nurse at (813) 262-1330.

What is a tympanoplasty?

A tympanoplasty is a surgical repair of the eardrum. The procedure is often performed for an eardrum perforation or to strengthen a weakened, retracted eardrum while often improving hearing. Various techniques exist to repair an eardrum. Depending on the indication for your child's surgery, the surgeon may select to operate through the ear drum, or from an incision hidden behind the ear. Nearby fascia or cartilage are often used as materials to repair the ear drum.

How long will it take to recover?

Surgery is outpatient. Children can usually go back to school a few days after the dressing has been taken down and they no longer need prescription pain medicine.

What are the risks of a tympanoplasty?

Risks of this procedure include failure to heal/re-perforation, bleeding, infection, or temporary taste disturbance. Any ear surgery can theoretically have a risk to damage hearing, balance, or the facial nerve function but this is exceedingly rare (<1%).

How can I take ear care of my child?

1. **Pain:** Over the counter Tylenol and Motrin are great medications for ear surgery. Your child's surgeon may prescribe an additional prescription medication in certain instances.
2. **Wound Care:** Blood tinged drainage from the ear canal or incision is normal and expected after ear surgery. Place ointment given over incision 2-3 times daily for 7 days. After that, Aquaphor ointment can be placed over incision 2-3 times daily until first post-operative appointment. Often times an antibiotic is prescribed pending on what is found in the ear. Sutures are dissolvable.
3. **Water Precautions:** Place a cotton ball in ear canal when showering to keep ear canal dry. Remove after shower. Do not submerge wound or ear underwater (i.e. bathe or swim) until cleared by your surgeon.
4. **Post-Op Appointment:** A follow up appointment should be made in our office for 3 weeks after surgery. We subsequently see you again approximately 3 months after surgery and test your child's hearing. Often, your surgeon will have your child on ear drops to be started 1 week prior to the first clinic visit.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the office if your child experiences:

- A temperature over 101.5° F
- Ear pain not relieved with given medication
- Spreading redness in the skin near the incision
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- If you have any concerns about how your child looks or feels