

Matthew Allen Bridges, M.D. – (804) 378-7443

Commonwealth Ear Nose and Throat Specialists PC

Postoperative Instructions for Tympanostomy

Your child has just undergone placement of ear tube(s). The procedure is generally brief and uncomplicated but a few points listed below may be considered.

1. Your child may be irritable for several hours following the procedure. A low-grade fever is not uncommon during the first 24-36 hours. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin) may be used to reduce some mild pain or fever. Your child should be watched closely on the day of the procedure but normal activities may be resumed the following day. Tugging on the ears is common and will not disturb the tubes.
2. There may be a small amount of drainage from the ear canals which may appear clear, yellow, crusty or bloody. As long as the discharge tapers off over 2-3 days there is no need to worry. If the drainage persists after 3-4 days without signs of improvement, please contact the office.
3. Ear drops are often recommended after the procedure. Floxin, Ciloxin, or Ciprodex drops are commonly used. Ciprodex has an added steroid to reduce inflammation. Generally the child should use the prescribed ear drops as follows:
 - *3-4 drops in affected ear(s) twice daily for 3 days
 - *Continue the ear drops after 3 days if drainage or signs of infection persist and contact the office
4. It is not uncommon for the ears to drain periodically, especially during upper respiratory infections or colds. The prescribed ear drops may be used during this time. If no improvement after 4-5 days, please notify the office.
5. Water precautions: A small amount of bath or pool water may enter the ear canals. Ear plugs are recommended with diving, deep water swimming or in a potentially contaminated water source such as non-chlorinated pool, lake, river or ocean. Custom-fitted ear molds may be obtained. Your doctor may advise more aggressive water precautions if frequent drainage or infection becomes a problem.
6. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns at (804) 378-7443 during regular office hours. If an emergent issue should arise during off-hours, the above number will allow your physician to be paged.

Patient's signature:

_____ Date _____

Nurse/Physician's signature:

_____ Date _____