



Post Operative Instructions

Ear Tubes

1. Your child may be irritable or fretful during the first few hours after surgery. Generally, behavior returns to normal after a nap.
2. Liquids are allowed as soon as you leave the hospital. If nausea occurs, wait 30 minutes and try liquids again. A regular diet can be resumed three hours after leaving the surgery center.
3. There may be some blood in the ear or thick drainage for 2-3 days after surgery. Any continued drainage or temperature elevation may indicate infection in which case the office should be contacted.
4. The patient should be seen in the office for a follow-up visit 4 weeks after the procedure. The ear tubes usually stay in place for 6-12 months. The patient should be seen in the office every 6 months until the tubes come out.
5. The ears should be kept dry for about 10 days. Hair may be washed, be careful to avoid water getting in the ears. Swimming is allowed. Mack's ear plugs may be used for additional protection if your child is prone to ear drainage. Our office offers custom fit earplugs or "docplugs". Extra protection should be taken when swimming in rivers, lakes, or oceans.
6. The patient may return to school or work the day following surgery.
7. A prescription for ear drops will be given to you at discharge. Use the drops twice a day starting the day of surgery for 5-7 days or as directed by your surgeon.
8. Fever is not expected with tube placement, if your child has a fever 24 hours after surgery, call your pediatrician.
9. Flying is permitted after tubes are in place.
10. Call the office if you see drainage from the ear which is green, yellow, or has a foul odor that does not disappear 7-10 days of using the prescribed drops.

Office Phone: 804-484-3700

Virginia Ear, Nose & Throat Associates' office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You should be able to reach us after hours by calling the regular office number.