



Bilateral Myringotomy With Tubes

Patient and Family Education

What is bilateral myringotomy?

Bilateral Myringotomy is surgery to place tubes inside the ears. This allows air to flow in and out of your child's middle ear to help stop repeated ear infections.

How should I care for my child after surgery?

Your child's doctor will talk with you about specific care for your child. Some general guidelines to follow include:

- Your child's ears may drain a small amount of blood-tinged fluid for up to three days.
- Your child's ears may feel itchy and "plugged up" for the next two weeks.
- Keep water out of your child's ears for at least two days. You will be given specific instructions about bathing, and possible use of earplugs.
- Give medicines as instructed by your child's doctor.
- Give acetaminophen (Tylenol[®], Temptra[®], Panadol[®]) for pain if prescribed by your child's doctor. Follow the directions on the box carefully or ask your child's doctor how much medicine to give.
 - Do not give your child more than 5 doses of acetaminophen in a 24-hour period.
 - Do not give acetaminophen to babies less than 3 months of age without a doctor's order.
- If your child is on an antibiotic, continue to give it as ordered. **DO NOT** stop giving your child this medicine because he feels better unless your child's doctor tells you to.

What else do I need to know?

- Keep your child home from day care or school the day of surgery and have him rest.
- Have your child drink plenty of fluids if not limited by his doctor, and always raise your infant's head while you breast- or bottle-feed him.

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor **right away** if:

- He has a low grade fever more than three days, or fever of 101°F or higher.
- He has bad smelling drainage from his ears for more than 3 days.
- He has any bright red bleeding, or blood-tinged drainage that lasts more than three days.
- You have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

This is general information and is not specific medical advice for your child. Always consult your child's doctor or other healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns about the care or health of your child. A Children's Healthcare of Atlanta pediatric advice nurse is available 24 hours a day at 404-250-KIDS.