

Bilateral Myringotomy With Tubes

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's health care team about specific care for your child.

What is bilateral myringotomy?

Bilateral myringotomy and tube placement is surgery to place tubes into both of the eardrums. Bilateral means "both sides". The tubes make a hole in the eardrums. The holes allow air to flow in and out of your child's middle ear to help stop repeated ear infections and prevent the build-up of fluid.

How should I care for my child after surgery?

Some general guidelines to follow may include:

- Your child's ears may drain a small amount of blood-tinged fluid for up to 3 days.
- Your child's ears may feel itchy and "plugged up" for the next 2 weeks.
- Keep water out of your child's ears for at least 2 days. Your child's doctor will give you instructions about bathing and using earplugs if needed.
- Give medicines as instructed by your child's doctor.
- Give acetaminophen (Tylenol, Tempra, 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.
- Always raise your baby's head while you breast- or bottle-feed him.

When should I call the doctor?

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

- A low grade fever more than three days, or fever of 101°F or higher.
- Bad smelling drainage from his ears for more than 3 days.
- Any bright red bleeding, or blood-tinged drainage that lasts more than 3 days.

Also call if 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 department right away.