

Tympanoplasty or Mastoidectomy

What is a Tympanoplasty/Mastoidectomy?

A **Tympanoplasty** is surgery on the eardrum or the middle ear. It is done to restore or improve hearing in people with conductive hearing loss. This procedure may also be used to repair a hole in the eardrum.

A **Mastoidectomy** is removal of the mastoid bone, which sits behind the ear. This procedure may be used to remove disease from the mastoid bone or to gain access to the middle ear.

How can I care for my child after the surgery?

Incision and ear care:

- After 24 hours, remove the cloth-like dressing or plastic cup covering the ear, and the gauze or Band-Aid underneath.
- There may be a cotton ball saturated with blood just outside the ear canal. This can be removed with clean tweezers or clean hands.
 - Use a damp washcloth or gauze to gently clean the outside of the ear. Then, lightly tape a clean, dry cotton ball over the ear canal until the drainage has stopped. Repeat as needed.
 - Bloody drainage may come and go for about a week after surgery
- Your child may have an approximate 1-1.5 inch (3-4 centimeter) incision behind the ear. Keep this area dry for 48 hours.
 - After 48 hours the incision site may get wet. Pat dry with a clean towel after water exposure.
- Keep the inside of the ear dry until cleared by the doctor (usually at the second follow up appointment) to decrease the risk for infection
 - Tape a cotton ball dipped in Vaseline lightly to the outside of the ear canal when bathing, showering or washing hair

- 7-10 days after the procedure, wet the area behind the ear to help remove the steri-strips (Band-Aids).
- More packing deep in the ear canal will be removed at the first follow up appointment (around 2 weeks after surgery).

Possible medications:

- Antibiotic eye drops. Use in the ear:
 - When replacing cotton ball
 - To prevent infection
 - To dissolve the remaining packing
- Tylenol (acetaminophen) and Motrin (ibuprofen)
 - These are used for pain control and can be given as needed or on a set schedule (around the clock). If around the clock dosing is needed you can give them together every 6 hours or you can alternate them every 3 hours for example: if the first dose of Acetaminophen is at 12:00 PM:

12:00 PM	Acetaminophen
3:00 PM	Ibuprofen
6:00 PM	Acetaminophen
9:00 PM	Ibuprofen
Continue alternating every 3 hours	

Activity and school recommendations until first follow up appointment:

- May return to school after 2-3 days if feeling well and not needing around the clock pain medication.
- Avoid any build-up of pressure in the ear
 - Avoid blowing nose
 - Sneeze with mouth open
 - Avoid heavy lifting, bending, or strenuous activity
 - Avoid any situation that may cause an injury to the head
 - Speak with Pediatrician if constipation is an issue

When should I contact the clinic?

Call us if you have any of the following concerns:

- Heavy bleeding from the ear
- Incision site concerns:
 - Redness
 - Swelling
 - Any draining or discharge
- Fever greater than 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit for longer than 24 hours that is not controlled with Tylenol or Motrin
- Increasing tenderness or pain
- Significant dizziness

What is the contact information for questions or concerns?

- Please contact the clinic nurse by calling (734) 936-5730. This number may also be used for scheduling appointments.
- On weekends or after 5:00 PM call (734) 936-6267 and ask for the resident Otolaryngology doctor on call.

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