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Ear Tube Post-Operative Instructions

- You should be given a bottle of antibiotic ear drops after the surgery. Apply 5 drops to each ear twice a day for 7 days. It may help to warm the bottle to body temperature by putting it in your pocket for a few minutes or putting it in small glass of warm water for a few minutes. Do not put it in the microwave. Warming the drops will make them more comfortable in the ear canal. When you give the drops, pump on the tab in front of the ear canal to be sure the drops go down the canal.
- Blood-tinged drainage is normal for the first 3-5 days. If the drainage persists beyond 7 days then call our office during regular office hours.
- Ear tubes usually do not hurt. However, if your child had other procedures such as removal of tonsils and/or adenoids, then they may experience ear pain. (Refer to other post-operative instructions). If your child is fussy or irritable you may give Tylenol or motrin as needed.
- Fever is common for the first 3-5 days. Tylenol or motrin may be given as needed.
- Keep your follow-up appointment. This should be about 2 weeks after surgery and should include a hearing test.
- You should have long term follow-up every 6 months until the tubes fall out. The tubes fall out without any intervention in the great majority of cases.
- You should prevent water from entering the ear canal for the first week after surgery. The easiest way to do this is to put a cotton ball with a bit of vaseline on it in the outer part of the ear canal and hold it there when washing the hair.
- After the first week you do not need to prevent water from getting in the ear canal.
- You should avoid q-tips because using q-tips causes ear wax impactions which will impair tube function.
- Call our office if you have any other questions or concerns.

Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor
Ear Tubes for Children or Adults

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