

Myringotomy with Tube Placement

Postoperative Instructions

General Information

You (or your child) have undergone a myringotomy with tube placement. This procedure involves creating a small opening in the eardrum and inserting a tiny tube to help drain fluid, ventilate the middle ear space, and prevent repeated ear infections. Recovery is usually quick, and most patients experience significant improvement in ear health and hearing.

Activity

- Normal activities, including school and work, can usually be resumed the day after surgery.
- Avoid strenuous activity or swimming for 24 hours after surgery.

Wound / Ear Care

- A small amount of clear, yellow, or slightly bloody drainage from the ear is common for the first 5-7 days.
- If drainage persists beyond 7 days, or becomes thick, yellow, or foul-smelling, contact our office.
- Do not insert cotton swabs or other objects into the ear canal.
- Ear drops may be prescribed—use exactly as directed.

Pain & Medications

- Most children and adults experience little to no pain after this procedure.
- Over-the-counter acetaminophen or ibuprofen is usually sufficient for discomfort, if needed.
- If ear drops are prescribed, apply them carefully and complete the full course.

Hearing

- Many patients notice improved hearing almost immediately.
- Some sounds may seem louder or “echo” for the first few days as the ear adjusts.
- If hearing does not improve within several weeks, potential causes will be further evaluated at your postoperative appointment.

Water Precautions

- It is generally safe to bathe and shower, as well as swim in “clean” water (i.e. chlorinated pool) without special precautions.
- For swimming in untreated bodies of water (i.e. ocean, lake, river, etc.) well-fitted waterproof ear plugs should be used to limit the chance of infection.



768 N Bethlehem Pike, Ste 300

Ambler, PA 19002-2659

Phone: 215-383-1333

www.GreaterPhillyEar.com

What to Expect

- Mild drainage from the ear canal for the first week.
- Occasional popping or crackling sounds.
- Tubes typically remain in place for 6–18 months before falling out on their own.

When to Call the Office

Contact Greater Philadelphia Ear Specialists if you notice:

- Persistent or increasing ear drainage beyond 5-7 days.
- Fever over 101°F (38.3°C).
- Severe ear pain or swelling around the ear.
- Sudden change in hearing or balance.
- Concern that the tube has fallen out early.

Follow-Up

- You will have a first postoperative follow-up visit in 2-3 weeks after surgery to check healing and tube position.
- Regular checkups every few months are needed while the tubes remain in place.
- **If you have not scheduled a post-op appointment already, please call the Greater Philadelphia Ear Specialists office at (215) 383-1333 to schedule a post-op appointment.**

Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns after your surgery, please call the Greater Philadelphia Ear Specialists office. For emergencies after normal business hours or on weekends, a physician is on call and can be reached at the office phone number.