

MYRINGOTOMY WITH PRESSURE EQUALIZING TUBE PLACEMENT

RISKS OF NON-TREATMENT

If ear infections are not treated, infection can spread to areas around the ear including the brain.

NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT OF EAR INFECTIONS

The vast majority of ear infections can be managed with antibiotics and Tylenol or ibuprofen. When these treatments are no longer effective, consideration is given for surgery

DESCRIPTION OF SURGERY

Surgery in children is performed under general anesthesia. An IV is usually not required. Once the child is asleep, an incision is made in the eardrum and fluid is removed from behind the drum. A small tube is inserted into the incision to hold the hole in the eardrum open.

RISKS OF SURGERY

The main risk of the surgery is the possibility of a permanent hole in the eardrum. If this occurs, a repeat surgery is often required to repair the hole. There is also a risk of bleeding or repeated infections. Scarring can sometimes occur on the eardrum and in the middle ear and this can cause hearing loss in some cases. If the tubes fail to extrude within a reasonable period of time, a repeat surgery to remove them may be required. Some children will require more than one set of tubes.

RECOVERY

Pain is usually minimal. Bloody or purulent drainage is very common following surgery. This is controlled with antibiotic eardrops. If your child has drainage but you did not receive eardrops following surgery, call the clinic for a prescription. Only use drops prescribed by your doctor following tube placement. Follow-up visits one to two times each year are performed to check the tubes. Most tubes will fall out in six months to two years.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

All non-chlorinated water must be kept out of the ear. In the shower or bath no special precautions are required. Swimming in non-chlorinated water (even with earplugs) is not recommended. Most children will be able to swim in chlorinated or salt water pools without using earplugs. Some children will have problems with ear pain when submerging. Other children will have problems with ear infections with any water exposure. In these children earplugs can be considered for use in pools.