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Post-Operative Instructions Ear Tube Placement

Tube Information:

Your child has had tubes inserted into the eardrum(s). These usually remain in place approximately 6-18 months and then are usually extruded by the ear spontaneously. We will check your child periodically in the office until the tubes have fallen out of the eardrum.

Ear Drops: Immediately following surgery, you may be instructed to use eardrops. Please use the drops as written on the prescription. It is important to keep the child on their side and pull on the ear as you place the drops. It is also helpful to push on the tragal cartilage (the cartilage in front of the ear canal) to pump the drops deeper into the ear canal. Try to hold the child on their side for 10-15 seconds after they are placed.

Ear Drainage:

- While the tubes are in the ears, an ear infection will present with drainage from the ear. The discharge may be cloudy or even bloody (not golden-brown ear wax color). This can often be treated with antibiotic ear drops alone, rather than oral antibiotics.
- If drainage occurs, please use the prescribed drops: 5 drops, 2 times a day, for 5 days; or as indicated by your doctor.
- If the discharge persists after using the drops, please make an appointment with our office at 512-346-7600.

Water Precautions: In the past children with ear tubes were routinely recommended to use water precautions when bathing or swimming. This approach has changed and routine use of water precautions is not felt to be necessary in the majority of cases. The doctor will discuss with you what water precautions are necessary (such as when swimming in a lake or river).

Post- Operative Pain:

Although usually not a painful procedure, acetaminophen (Tylenol), or Ibuprofen can be used for any post-operative discomfort.

Follow-up:

Your child is usually seen 2 - 4 weeks after surgery.