

Post Operative Instruction for P.E. Tubes

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1. A myringotomy with the placement of pressure equalization tubes (P.E. tubes) is a procedure where a small incision is placed in the ear drum. If any fluid is present in the middle ear, then this fluid is aspirated (removed), and a small plastic tube is placed into the opening of the ear drum.
The purpose of these P.E. tubes is to equalize the pressure in the middle ear, prevent any re-accumulation of middle ear fluid, and to help to restore the hearing.
2. On the day of surgery, your child may experience some minor ear discomfort. This pain is minimized with Tylenol. (Check the dose level to match the age and weight of your child.)s If there is persistent pain that is longer than 1 to 2 days, please call my office or notify the child's pediatrician. Ear drops are ordered after surgery. Please follow the instructions. The usual dose is two to three drops in each ear three times a day for two to three days
3. Usually, the P.E. tubes will remain in the ear drum for at least 6 to 12 months. The tubes generally will extrude or fall out by themselves. The perforation of the ear drum usually heals without any difficulty.
4. Please keep water out of your child's ear, until you return for the child's post-operative visit. If you have any question about swimming, discuss it with the doctor. I encourage the use of "Mack" plugs. These may be found in most drugstores.
5. Ear infections can occur with the P.E. tubes in place. This produces a foul purulent drainage, ear pain, and a low grade fever. If this occurs notify my office or the child's pediatrician.