

Patient Education Bilateral Myringotomy Tubes

Dear Parent:

Your child's doctor has scheduled your child for myringotomy (ear) tubes. During this surgery, the doctor will insert a small tube into your child's eardrum which allows fluid to drain from the middle ear.

Before the surgery

- ❖ **DO NOT** let your child eat or drink anything after midnight on the night before the surgery.
- ❖ Remove any finger and toe nail polish or jewelry before coming to the hospital. Remove any earrings, etc.
- ❖ When you arrive, you will be taken to your child's room so your child can get undressed and into a hospital gown.
- ❖ Your doctor or a nurse anesthetist will visit with you regarding the anesthesia your child will receive.

During the surgery

The surgery takes about 10 minutes. Your child will have a heart monitor and blood pressure cuff applied, and a pulse oximeter (measures the oxygen in the blood) placed on their finger or foot. When the doctor is ready, the anesthetist will give your child anesthesia which makes your child sleep through the surgery.

Your child will go to the recovery room to awaken from the anesthesia.

After the surgery

- ❖ Your child will be taken back to his/her room for further monitoring for a short time.
- ❖ During this time your child will need to be assisted to the bathroom. Please press the call light and ask for assistance.

Pain/Medications: Your child's doctor has pain medication available for your child upon request. Usually Tylenol is given for your child's pain.

Diet: Your child will be given water/sprite to drink after surgery. If this is tolerated, then your child may begin eating a normal, well-balanced diet.

After dismissal

Activity: Your child may be sleepy or unsteady after surgery. Assist them with walking to avoid falls. The next day normal activity is allowed.

Pain: Tylenol may be used for pain. An antibiotic may be prescribed; have your child take the antibiotic until it is gone.

Care of ear: Your child may have cotton in the affected ear(s). This can be removed the day of surgery. (Many times the cotton falls out in the recovery room.) There may be some drainage from the ear for the first 24 hours. Please call your doctor if drainage persists following this 24 hour period. Keep the ear clean and dry. When shampooing your child's hair, place cotton in the ear to keep water out, then remove the cotton.

Please refer to your dismissal instructions for further information.