

Ear Tube Surgery

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The surgeon makes a small hole in the eardrum. After removing fluid from the middle ear, he or she inserts a very small tube into the hole. This lets air into the middle ear and prevents fluid from building up again.

What You Can Expect After Surgery

Your child may have:

- fever of 99 to 100 F
- earache the day of surgery
- thin, watery drainage (pink, clear, yellow or bloody) for 2 or 3 days.

How to Care for Your Child's Ear

- Your surgeon will recommend pain medicine, ear drops or both for an earache.
- Follow the directions on the After Visit Summary.
- Talk with the surgeon about the possible need for ear plugs.

Activity

Your child may do quite activities the day of surgery and then return to regular activities. The ear tube will stay in place.

Food and Beverages

Give your child bland foods the day of surgery and then return to his or her regular foods.

What Else You Need To Know

- Have your child blow his or her nose gently.
- It's OK to fly. The ear tube equalizes the air pressure.
- Ear tubes don't prevent all ear infections. After surgery, your child should have fewer and milder ear infections.
- The ear tube should fall out between 6 months and 2 years. When it comes out, the hole in the eardrum should heal in a few weeks.

When to Call Your Child's Doctor

Call your child's doctor if your child has:

- yellow-green drainage from the ear
- bad smell from the ear
- fever higher than 102 F that does not get better after giving your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or putting a cool washcloth on his or her forehead.

Call if you have any questions.