



CommunityENT

EAR • NOSE • THROAT • ALLERGY

Dr. Brian Hawkins, Dr. Joseph Creely and Jocelyn Jones PA-C
4950 Norton Healthcare Blvd Suite 209. Louisville, KY 40241

Phone (502)425-5556

www.communityent.com

Tympanoplasty Post Operative Instructions

What is a Tympanoplasty?

This is a surgery to repair a hole in your eardrum. Typically your surgeon will use a graft of fascia or synthetic material to repair the hole in the ear drum. The fascia graft is usually taken from behind the eardrum. This graft is slid under the eardrum. Surgical packing is placed in the middle ear and ear canal to hold the graft and drum against each other to heal. This is performed in the operating room under general anesthesia.

In our experience, the first time success rate for both of these types of ear drum repairs are approximately 80-85%, revision surgeries have a lower success rate, approximately 60-70%.

How should I prepare for my ear surgery?

You should discontinue any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for 7 days prior to the surgery. If you are on any blood thinners, you will need to consult with the surgeon and the prescribing physician on how to discontinue those medications before surgery. Prepare to be off work for a few days after your surgery. Heavy lifting is not allowed for 4-6 weeks after surgery.

You will not be able to fly for 1-2 months after the surgery. You should not make any plan for airline travel until you have followed up with your surgeon.

What are the possible complications?

The most common complications are ear bleeding, ear infection and graft failure. The ear graft could fail leaving you with a residual perforation or hole in your ear drum. This could cause worsening or no improvement of your hearing. Although this ear surgery is designed to improve your hearing, the middle and inner ear structures

are extremely delicate and any surgical manipulation can cause hearing loss that is permanent.

The ear is an important part of your balance system. Any surgery in the ear may result in vertigo or imbalance that may be temporary or permanent.

The chorda tympani nerve is a nerve that controls taste. It goes through the middle ear. It can be damaged during ear surgery and cause a change in taste, which can be temporary or in rare cases permanent.

Facial paralysis, although very rare can occur during ear surgery and can be permanent.

What can I expect after surgery?

Your hearing will be blocked and decreased for several weeks in your ear. If you have stitches, typically they will absorb over time behind the ear.

What do I need to do at home

You can eat and drink normally. You should avoid alcohol while taking pain medication. You will get a prescription for pain medication. If you are taking this medication you cannot drive a car. You can use Tylenol for pain.

You should avoid any water exposure until approved by your surgeon.

You should not do any heavy lifting, strenuous exercise or nose blowing for at least 4-6 weeks.

When do I f/u with my doctor?

Typically the first follow up appointment is between 4-6 weeks.

When should I call my doctor?

Call the Office if:

- If you have any mucoid drainage coming from the ear
- If you notice any weakness in your facial muscles
- If you have dizziness or vertigo that is debilitating