



CommunityENT

EAR • NOSE • THROAT • ALLERGY

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Ear Tube Removal and Myringoplasty Post Operative Instructions

What is a Myringoplasty?

Myringoplasty is an outpatient surgery to repair a hole (also called a perforation) in an ear drum

What happens during surgery?

This surgery is performed under general anesthesia. The surgeon uses a microscope and if necessary removes the ear tube from the eardrum or the external auditory canal. After the ear tube is removed, the surgeon examines the hole in the ear drum. The hole is then covered with a small piece of special paper or fat. Both of these act as a patch and encourage the eardrum to heal on its own.

What are the possible complications or risks?

There is always a risk with any general anesthesia. The anesthesiology team will go over your history and make sure it is safe for you to have anesthesia. There is a risk to the nerve that controls taste. This can cause an abnormal taste that is usually temporary but can be permanent. Dizziness can happen after surgery and could be prolonged.

The most common risk is that the hole(perforation) does not heal. If this happens it may require a repeat operation or a more extensive operation called a tympanoplasty. Occasionally, if the hole doesn't close completely, and is not affecting the patient's hearing, we will not pursue any more surgical interventions.

What can I expect at home?

Depending on your surgeon, you may be given a prescription or a prescription will be called into your pharmacy for ear drops. You should use the ear drops for the recommended amount of time. Nothing, except the ear drops should go into the ear.

If you are worried about getting the ear wet during a bath or shower, you can saturate a cotton ball with vaseline and stick it gently in the ear. Another option is to buy silicone ear plugs over the counter to use when bathing. You will not be able to fly or swim until your surgeon approves it.

When should I follow up?

Typically the first post operative appointment for myringoplasty is 4 weeks after the surgery.

When should I call the office?

Call the Office if:

- If you have ear drainage that does not resolve with the prescription ear drops
- You develop a fever over 101.5, your ear pain is severe, nausea or vomiting.
Large amounts of bloody drainage from the ear, dizziness or vertigo

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