



ENTGROUP OF CLEVELAND, INC.

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Mark J. Wladecki, M.D.

(440) 808-9469

TYMPANOSTOMY (EAR) TUBES

Please keep these instructions for proper care of ear tubes.

Tympanostomy tubes are placed when there has been a persistence of fluid behind the ear drum for an extended period of time. The fluid causes hearing loss. If the fluid is present for more than three months in a child age 0 to 3, long term effects such as speech delay and receptive problems can occur. The reason for the fluid or recurrent infection is that the eustachian tube, which connects the ear to the back of the nose and literally 'breathes' for the ear, does not open and close correctly. Pressure differences cause fluid to collect in the middle ear space which can become infected. Treatment for INFECTION is antibiotics. Treatment for FLUID is decongestants, nasal sprays, and watchful waiting. If the fluid does not resolve, tubes should be placed.

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

It is not necessary to keep the tubes dry, such as in wearing ear plugs. Dr. Wladecki usually uses a tube with gel coating to prevent infection.

After the tubes are placed the only way there can be an ear infection while the tubes are in IS IF THERE IS DRAINAGE.

Keep the ear drops from the hospital or surgery center. If you see liquid drainage (PUS) or bloody drainage use the ear drops (3 drops) to the draining ear 3x a day for 5 days. Also use over the counter Neosynephrine or Afrin nosespray 3 times a day for 3 days. If the drainage does not stop in 3-4 days call Dr. Wladecki.

AS ABOVE, IF THERE IS NO DRAINAGE, NO INFECTION. A RED EARDRUM OR EAR PAIN DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN EAR INFECTION.

Ear tubes usually last about one year and then grow out with the skin of the eardrum and canal.

After the tubes are placed Dr. Wladecki would like to examine the ears about 2 weeks post-op. and then every four months.

NEVER PUT Q-TIPS IN THE EAR CANAL!!!

If you have a question please call our office.