

ENT SURGICAL CONSULTANTS

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MIDDLE EAR SURGERY (12/05)

(Tympanoplasty, Mastoidectomy, Stapedectomy, Ossiculoplasty, and Perilymph Fistula Repair)

Instructions:

- Wash hands with soap and water before caring for the ear.
- If you have an incision behind your ear, you should cleanse it three times a day with hydrogen peroxide, and then apply an antibiotic ointment (*Neosporin*, *Polysporin*, *Neomycin*, *Bacitracin*, etc.) for ten days. You should keep this incision dry for 36 hours after surgery.
- *Water should be kept out of the ear canal for at least three weeks.* To shampoo hair, place a cottonball in the ear canal and apply petrolatum ointment over the cotton to form a seal.
- If you have a pressure dressing over your ear, you should remove it 36 hours after the procedure if not instructed otherwise.
- You will probably be prescribed ear drops after surgery. When instilling ear drops, lie with the affected ear up and remain in this position for two minutes to allow for absorption of the drops. A cottonball may be inserted for short periods to collect drainage (while sleeping) or for exposure to excessive dust and dirt. Avoid constant and prolonged use of the ear cotton.
- Ear drainage may be reddish brown to brown in color, but usually becomes clear and disappears within a week or two.
- Sleep with your head of bed elevated to decrease the swelling in the ear.
- *Do not blow your nose.* Secretions in the nose should be drawn back and expectorated through the mouth. Do not hold your nose to avoid sneezing; sneeze with your mouth open. Do not forcefully exhale such as is done while playing a musical wind instrument.
- Do not participate in sports or vigorous activity (i.e. exercise, sexual intercourse) or return to strenuous work for three weeks. Avoid straining at all times for three weeks. You should not travel by air for 3 weeks after the operation.
- Avoid exposure to colds or respiratory infections.
- Periods of vertigo (spinning sensation) or dizziness (lightheadedness) may occur for several days. Take precautions to prevent falls.
- Nausea may occur for 36 hours after general anesthesia.
- Hearing may improve or fade at times during the first six weeks. It is normal to experience cracking and popping of the ear, and sound like your head is “in a barrel.”
- A nerve for taste passes through the ear and it is not unusual for taste sensation to be altered slightly for several weeks or months following the operation.

If the following occurs, contact 815-725-1191:

- Discolored drainage (pus) from the ear
- Persistent dizziness or vertigo
- A constant loud buzzing or ringing
- Significant decrease in hearing or sudden deafness
- Persistent fever or pain