

Greenville ENT Post-op Instructions

What to Expect at Home



Ear Tube Surgery in Children

Your Child's Recovery

Most children have little or no pain after ear tube placement and recover quickly. Your child will feel tired for a day, but they should be able to go back to school or child care the day after surgery. Your child may want your attention more for the first few days after surgery.

Your child will need to see the doctor regularly to make sure the tubes are working. The doctor may also check your child's hearing at some point after tubes are placed. The tubes usually stay in 6-18 months and fall out on their own as the child grows. This care sheet gives you a general idea about how long it will take for your child to recover. But each child recovers at a different pace. Follow the steps below to help your child get better as quickly as possible.

Medicine

	Your child will be prescribed antibiotic ear drops. Use 4 drops twice a day for 7 days unless otherwise advised by your child's doctor.
	Oral antibiotics are not typically prescribed for tubes.

	Your child may restart routine medicines after surgery unless instructed otherwise.
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Activity

	Your child may or may not be tired the day of surgery. When your child is ready, he or she can begin playing again.
	Your child may go back to school or daycare on the day after surgery.
	Your child most likely will not need to avoid clean water, but lake, river, or ocean water may cause an infection. Most children do not need ear plugs, but custom-sized PROPLUGS are available at our office, at your follow up visit.

When should you call for help?

Call 911 or go to the **emergency room** anytime you think your child may need emergency care. For example, call **911** for:

	Loss of consciousness.
	Severe trouble breathing.
	Sudden chest pain, shortness of breath, or coughing up blood.

Call your child's doctor or seek medical care for:

	A fever over 101F
	Pain that does not get better after taking pain medicine.
	Pus or bloody drainage that doesn't clear up.