



## Postoperative Instructions Radical Mastoidectomy, Tympanoplasty, Meatoplasty

1. This surgery is usually done to resolve an eardrum tumor called a cholesteotoma. It may also be done to resolve difficult chronic infection problems. The surgery may take 3-4 hours and requires general anesthesia. It is a day surgery.
2. After surgery, there will be a dressing wrapped around the head and over the operated ear. The dressing will be left in place for 2 days. The dressing will become stained with blood.
3. The dressing will be removed in the office. There will be sutures behind the ear left in place for 1-2 weeks. A cotton ball will be in the ear bowl. Under the cotton ball, there are sponges in the mastoid cavity. Leave these in place. The sponges will be removed 1-2 weeks after surgery.
4. Ear drops will be prescribed. Each time the drops are used, remove the cotton ball, apply the drops to the sponges, and then place a new cotton ball. It may be necessary to tape the cotton ball to the external ear. Apply 5 drops twice a day.
5. Keep the ear dry for 8 weeks. When showering, put a cotton ball with Vaseline in the ear bowl. Do not allow the shower water to directly hit the ear. You may shower 48 hours after the surgery. Apply over the counter Bacitracin antibiotic ointment to the incision behind the ear 3 times a day for 10 days.
6. It is necessary to greatly enlarge the size of the ear canal for this surgery. It will permanently appear much larger. It takes several weeks for this cavity to completely heal. Additional procedures in the office may be necessary to help with the healing. The external ear will sit closer to the side of the head.
7. The facial nerve that controls facial muscles runs through the ear. Temporary facial weakness/paralysis may occur. It is important to understand that a permanent paralysis is possible. This is a life altering situation.
8. It is never possible to regain normal hearing after this surgery. The surgery is performed to remove destructive cholesteotoma or resolve a chronic infection. The surgery may be so extensive such that hearing results are worse after surgery and hearing is poor.
9. Prolonged dizziness, balance disturbance, vertigo, and nausea are possible. It may last for several weeks. There is a chance these symptoms may be permanent. Ear ringing is possible and may be permanent.
10. The sense of taste may be permanently altered by this surgery. A nerve involved in taste function passes through the ear. It is sacrificed during this surgery.
11. No strenuous activity for 6 weeks after the surgery. No nose blowing please for 3 weeks. Fevers may occur for 1 week after surgery. Antibiotics, pain medication, and anti-nausea medication will be prescribed.
12. It is not uncommon for there to be some odor coming from the ear. This is due to the sponges. It will improve when the sponges are removed.
13. The surgery takes 6-8 weeks to heal. Ear drainage will be present until it completely heals. The drainage may be colored and bloody. Call if the ear becomes increasingly red, swollen, painful, or has much colored drainage. Additional surgery in the operating room may be necessary if healing is incomplete.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm I have read and understand the information provided before the date of surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date