



Postoperative Instructions for a Mastoidectomy and Tympanoplasty

1. The surgery is done to correct an ear with chronic/recurrent infections and an eardrum perforation. There may associated erosion of the ear bones. Sometimes, an attempt to reconstruct the hearing bones is necessary. The surgery will usually take 2-3 hours of general anesthesia.
2. After surgery, there will be a dressing wrapped around the head and over the operated ear. The dressing may become stained with blood. This is normal. The dressing is removed the next day.
3. After the dressing is removed, you will see a cotton ball in the ear bowl and tape behind the ear. Leave the tape in place.
4. Ear drops will be prescribed. Each time the ear drops are used, remove the cotton ball first. A sponge will be in the ear canal. Apply the drops onto the sponge and place a new cotton ball. Use 4 drops twice a day. Do not remove the sponge. An antibiotic and pain medicine will also be prescribed.
5. I will remove the sponge 1-2 weeks after surgery.
6. You must keep the ear dry for 6 weeks. When showering, put a cotton ball with Vaseline in the ear bowl. Do not let the shower water directly hit the ear. Dry the tape behind the ear after showering. Patients may shower 48 hours after surgery.
7. Ringing, ear fullness, dizziness, and hearing loss will be more noticeable after the surgery. Expect this to last at least 6 weeks. The symptoms are usually not permanent but that is still possible. It is more difficult to obtain normal hearing if surgery on the ear bones is necessary. The external ear may be numb for several weeks.
8. The sense of taste may be altered after surgery. A nerve involved in taste function passes behind the eardrum. This may be permanent.
9. No strenuous activity for 2 weeks. Please do not blow your nose until given the okay to do so.
10. Fevers up to 1 week after surgery are possible.
11. Call if the ear becomes increasingly red, swollen, painful, or has yellow drainage.

I, _____, confirm that I have read and understand the information provided before the date of surgery.

12. The surgery is usually successful. However, there is a 2-5% chance the eardrum will not heal with resolution of the entire hole. A second attempt may be necessary.

Signature

Date