



Post Op Tubes

Ear tubes generally stay in place for 9-12 months. They typically get pushed out on their own. Some tubes come out earlier and some stay in longer. The hole in the ear drum usually heals when the tube falls out. Occasionally, the hole does not close on its own and patching of the ear drum may be necessary at some point.

The day of surgery children may be sleepy or fussy until they are fully awake and have some juice or formula. There is usually little to no pain. Tylenol or Motrin can be used in doses appropriate for age. Ear drops are typically used for a few days after surgery. A small amount of blood-tinged drainage from the ears can be normal.

The child should be under adult supervision the day of surgery until anesthesia has completely worn off. Going to school or day care the following day is fine.

Occasional drainage from the ears occurs in 20-30% of children who have tubes. The lining of the ear and nose are continuous so that allergies, viral infections, or purulent (pus-forming) infections of the nose may lead to drainage through the tubes. If drainage is discolored or accompanied by fever, discuss it with your physician. Otherwise, you may use the drops prescribed for 4-5 days and call our office if the drainage persists.

Please schedule an appointment for 2 weeks after surgery.