



Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants of North Mississippi

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CARE AFTER TYMPANOPLASTY, MIDDLE EAR SURGERY, AND MASTOIDECTOMY

What to Expect After Surgery

In the first 24 hours after surgery, you may notice some mild nausea and pain at the operative site. Nausea will pass rather quickly as the operative anesthetics lose their effect. Pain medicine will be prescribed to control any postoperative discomfort. In the first 24 hours after your surgery, you will need to be very still, avoiding sudden movements when you turn your head, roll over, or get up. Depending on the type of surgery that you have had, the doctor may instruct you not to get out of the bed until the day after your surgery. Your hearing will fade during the first weeks after surgery due to fluid collection behind your eardrum. At four to six weeks after surgery, you would notice a slow but progressive improvement in your hearing. If you experience sudden deafness, whirling dizziness, or have a constant loud ringing in your ear, you should notify the doctor immediately. If you notice some bloody drainage from the ear for several days following surgery, this is a normal finding. If the drainage develops a creamy, pus-like appearance, if significant bright red bleeding occurs, or if you develop an increase in or severe ear pain, you could notify your doctor. Do not be alarmed if you have a change in taste, particularly to a metallic taste. This will likely return to normal although it may take several months.

EAR CARE

The dressing over the operated ear may be removed the day following surgery. There may be stitches behind the operated ear which may need to be removed in seven to ten days. Alternatively, dissolvable stitches may have been placed that may take then to twenty days to disappear. Often there will also be gauze packing inside the ear, upon which you will need to place antibiotic drops three times a day until returning to see the doctor.

If there is no packing inside the ear, you will likely be instructed to use drops in this situation, as well.

Should there be stitches behind the ear, these should be cleaned twice daily with Peroxide followed by application of an antibiotic ointment. If you wish to wash your hair, the operated ear should be plugged with a petroleum jelly-soaked cotton ball. While small amounts of water will not hurt the stitches behind the ear, the ear canal itself should be kept dry.

For about a week, the operated ear may appear swollen and appear to stick out somewhat. This is a fairly normal occurrence. However, if there is any redness, continued swelling, or pus-like drainage from the stitches, please notify the office.

Please make keep follow up appointment as instructed by your doctor. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office.