

POSTOPERATIVE VENTILATION TUBE INSERTION INSTRUCTIONS

The insertion of ventilation tubes in the eardrum provides the following benefits:

1. Allows for the removal of middle ear fluid if present
2. Relieves negative middle ear pressure by restoring air ventilation to the middle ear space.
3. Reduces, but does not prevent, acute ear infections.
4. Helps in the restoration of hearing caused by the presence of fluid.
5. Allows for visual evidence of infection by the appearance of a colored discharge.
6. Allows for an infection to be treated by antibiotic drops via direct access through the open tube to the middle ear.

PROCEDURE:

1. Tube insertion is usually performed in an outpatient surgery center under general anesthesia. Local anesthesia for an office procedure is also offered to the adult patient.
2. Antibiotic eardrops (often labeled eye drops) may be prescribed postoperatively. Before instilling drops, warm the drops by holding them in your hand for 5 minutes. Gently pull back on the outer ear. After instilling the drops fold the tragal cartilage (located in front of the ear) over the canal opening. Push on the tragus several times to create a suction which will help to draw the drops deeper into the canal. Protect the ear (s) from water contamination until the treatment with the antibiotic drops has been completed. Using a cotton ball coated with Vaseline in the external ear canal makes for a simple ear plug.
3. Call Concord Otolaryngology's office if colored or bloody drainage persists after completion of the antibiotic drops.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Ear drainage of any color always means infection. Contact the office at 603-224-2353 to obtain instructions for treatment.
2. Bloody drainage, with tubes in place, **IS NOT AN EMERGENCY**. Contact our office for advice.
3. Usually there is no pain with an infection provided the tube is in place and open.
4. Patients who have had tonsil surgery with tube insertion or children who are teething may complain of ear pain without evidence of ear drainage. The discomfort is likely related to an unrelated source known as referred ear pain. If the pain is not reduced by using Tylenol, call your Surgeon or PCP's office for advice.
5. If there is known trauma to the ear, seek an appointment as soon as possible.
6. Keep the scheduled 2 week postoperative appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: A 6 Month follow up visit to the ENT office for tube placement is required!

1. Pope and Reuter – Bobbin ventilation tubes dislodge from the eardrum quietly approximately 6-12 months after insertion.
2. T-Tubes are designed to last 2 years or longer.