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## VENTILATION TUBE INSERTION INSTRUCTIONS

The insertion of ventilating tubes in the eardrum provide 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, the number of acute ear infections.
4. Helps in the restoration of hearing loss that is due to the presence of fluid.
5. Visual evidence of infection by the appearance of a colored discharge persistently leaking from the ear.
6. Direct access through the open tube for the use of antibiotic drops.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Tube insertion is usually performed in an outpatient surgery center under general anesthesia. Local anesthesia as an office procedure is also offered to the adult patient.
2. Antibiotic eardrops (often labeled eye drops) are prescribed and should be used for 5-7 days following the day of surgery or as directed by your Surgeon.
3. Before instilling drops, warm the drops by holding them in your hand for 5 minutes.
4. Call Concord Otolaryngology's office if drainage (white, yellow or bloody) persists after completion of the antibiotic drops within 2 weeks of insertion.
5. Keep water out of the ears. Initially block the ear canal by using cotton balls coated with Vaseline. Water or swim plugs will be discussed or fitted at the 2-week post op visit.

### MAINTENANCE OF TUBES:

1. Avoid water exposure – infants/toddlers – use 3-4 antibiotic drops following exposure or swim plug use as directed by your MD. School age/Adult - Use ear plugs (custom, Doc, Mack)
2. Ear Drainage – always means infection. Any ear drainage after the initial 2-week post op appointment should be directed to the PCP's office.
3. Bloody Drainage, with tubes in place, **IS NOT AN EMERGENCY**. Contact our office for advice.
4. Usually there is no pain with an infection provided the tube is in place and open.
5. Children who have had tonsil surgery with tube insertion or are teething may complain of ear pain know as **referred** ear pain. This means the pain originates from another source other than the ears. If treating with Tylenol does not reduce the pain, call your Surgeon or PCP's office for advice.
6. If there is known trauma to the ear, seek an appointment as soon as possible.

### **PLEASE NOTE: 6 Month follow up visit to the ENT office is required!**

1. Pope Tubes dislodge from the eardrum quietly approximately 6-12 months after insertion.
2. T-Tubes are designed to last 2 years or longer. 6 Month follow up visits are also required.