



**MYRINGOTOMY AND TUBE PLACEMENT  
PATIENT INFORMATION**

The Eustachian tube connects the back of the nose with the middle ear. Occasionally, the Eustachian tube does not function properly. This leads to fluid accumulation behind the ear drum, and/or frequent ear infections, both of which lead to decreased hearing. This problem can, in most cases, be reversed by placing holes in the ear drum to allow the middle ear to return to normal. The tympanostomy tubes function to keep the holes open, in order to allow the middle ear to heal.

**AFTER SURGERY:**

- 1) A small amount of bloody drainage is okay, if it does not continue for longer than three or four days.
- 2) There is occasionally a slight amount of pain after the surgery. Over the counter Tylenol is usually sufficient for the pain.
- 3) Dizziness can occur during surgery, and may occur to several hours later. This passes rapidly in almost every case.
- 4) Diving or jumping into the water is prohibited, as is placing the head completely under water in the bathtub, since these activities may introduce water in the middle ear, through the hole in the ear drum. This scenario makes infection much more likely. Bathing, showering, and swimming on the surface of the water are all acceptable activities, and no special precautions need to be taken, unless instructed otherwise by your doctor.