

# DREW S. SAWYER, M.D.

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## OTOLARYNGOLOGY

### **Pediatric Ear Tubes Post-operative Instructions**

#### **Directions:**

Keep your child out of daycare/school the day of surgery. Most children can return to normal activity and to daycare/school the following day.

Start the ear drops prescribed to you the evening of surgery.

Bathing and swimming in chlorinated pools are ok without ear plugs. If your child will be exposure to untreated water (ocean, lake, or river), please use ear plugs to keep the ears dry. Wax ear plugs are available at most pharmacies. We offer Doc's ProPlugs and custom ear plugs. Please call us at 512-593-5200 if you are interested in obtaining ear plugs from us.

#### **General Information:**

Ear tubes typically stay in place somewhere between 6-18 months. They typically fall out on their own and the hole underneath heals over 1-2 weeks.

A small number of children will have problems with the tubes. These are almost always minor in nature and include persistent infections, plugging of the tubes, tubes falling out early, and a persistent hole in the eardrum after a tube falls out.

If your child had a conductive hearing loss prior to surgery, normal sounds may seem loud after surgery secondary to return to normal hearing.

There is a 20-30% chance your child will need more than one set of ear tubes. In those cases, an [adenoidectomy](#) may also be recommended.

Plan on making a follow up appointment 3-4 weeks after surgery. A follow up hearing test is typically recommended. Additionally, we will plan on seeing your child every 6 months as long as the tubes remain in place.

#### **When to Call After Surgery:**

Fever >101.5

Persistent nausea or vomiting

Persistent drainage from the ear for more than 3-4 days post-operatively

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**Who to Call After Surgery:**

If you are experiencing an emergency call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room

During business hours (M-F 8:15AM-4:30PM) call the clinic at 512-593-5200

For after-hours issues that cannot wait until the next business day, please call the answering service at 512-323-5465 and ask for the doctor on call for Dr. Sawyer (ENT).