



INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING: PRESSURE EQUALIZATION TUBE PLACEMENT

A ventilation tube was placed in your eardrum. You cannot see the tube.

EAR DRAINAGE

It is normal to have a small amount of bloody or milky drainage from the ear canal. This will persist as long as you use the ear drops (Cortisporin®, polymyxin, hydrocortisone, or neomycin or Ciprodex®). Drainage usually stops within 24 hours of the last use of the ear drops. If desired, you may place a small portion of a cotton ball in each ear bowl to catch any drainage.

Occasionally, patients will develop drainage from the ear several days after the drops are discontinued. If this occurs, you should call the office for an appointment.

BATHING/EAR PLUGS

It is usually best to avoid large amounts of water in the ears. A few drops of clear shower water will generally cause no harm. If you go under the surface of the tub or stand in the shower stream, then you may wish to use a silicone plug (available in most drug stores) or about 1/3 of a cotton ball with Vaseline® on it as a sealant. Custom plugs may be made to fit your ear if you are a frequent swimmer.

TRAVEL

You should expect to feel more comfortable with elevation changes or airplane flights once the tubes are in place.

MEDICATIONS

In most cases, we will not use drops. If we choose to, use them per the following instructions:

Cortisporin otic suspension: three drops in each ear, three times a day, for three days

OR

Ciprodex® otic drops: four drops in each ear twice a day for three days

OR

Ciloxan® (Ciprofloxacin) otic drops: four drops in each ear three times a day for three days

Plain Tylenol® suspension may be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Other _____

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT

DATE _____ TIME _____

Please call the office to arrange a follow-up appointment one to two weeks after tube placement.

If you experienced hearing loss, a follow-up audiogram may be performed.

EMERGENCIES

You may contact Dr. McCaffery or the doctor on call through the office number (805) 964-6926.

If you cannot reach Dr. McCaffery or the doctor on call, you may call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room.

Pediatric and Adult ENT | Certified, American Board of Otolaryngology
Disorders of the Ears, Nose, Throat, Sinuses, Voice, Hearing, Dizziness, Head and Neck Surgery
Dr. John McCaffery is President of Hearing Services of Santa Barbara and contracts with them for Audiologic services.