

## MYRINGOTOMY AND TYMPANOSTOMY TUBES

Myringotomy with or without tympanostomy tube insertion is the most common performed ear operation. It is extremely safe and effective. Complications are minor and are usually in the form of infection, which may be treated with antibiotics. The tube usually remains in place for several months although it may be rejected sooner or remain in place for years. As long as there is a tube in the ear, care should be taken to avoid water contamination, especially bath water, by the use of ear plugs or if desired, a bathing cap. Occasionally, the eardrum fails to heal after tubes have been removed, and the resulting perforation may require surgical repair. In some cases, particularly when there is a family history of chronic ear disease, tympanostomy tubes may need to be replaced. Hearing improvement is usually immediate after fluid has been removed from the ear. Failure to improve hearing indicates a second problem in the middle or inner ear.

With any procedure there is a minimal risk of major complications or even death.

### POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

-There are no restrictions on diet or activity. It is not necessary for patient to have medication after surgery unless the patient runs a slight temperature, in which case Tylenol may be used.

-Do not allow water in the ears. Your physician will advise you whether or not it may be necessary for ear protection (i.e. wax plugs or swim molds).

-The patient may have a small amount of bloody drainage from the ears. If the drainage persists or if the drainage is pus-type, notify your physician.

-If your child develops fever or problems before your scheduled appointment, notify your physician.

-Bleeding and infection, retained p.e. tube, hearing loss, ear damage, increase wax.

I have read and understand the above and have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_