



EAR TUBE OWNER'S MANUAL

Contratulations on your shiny new set of ear tubes! While there is no maintenance needed, there are common questions that arise that we would like to answer here. If you have other questions, feel free to give us a call!

Do I need to wear earplugs when I have ear tubes?

No. There have been decades of scientific research to address this questions and recently ENT doctors have agreed that the science shows wearing ear plugs when swimming or bathing is not necessary for the vast majority of children with tubes.

My child hates having water in their ears or has discomfort with water in the ears?

Kids are very smart and some really do not like the feeling of water in their ears when they have tubes. There is no harm to the child in the majority of cases, but ear plugs can help if they have discomfort. This is not necessary for majority of children.

Can I use swimmer's ear drops when I have tubes?

NOO! Do not use any product in the ear containing alcohol (like swimmer's ear drops) when you have tubes.

My child screams and crys when we use the ear drops, should we continue?

The majority of children tolerate antibiotic ear drops (e.g. Ciprofloxacin) without issue and they typically cause no pain. As with water, some children really hate this sensation and can really hate drops. Unfortunately there are many cases where using the drops is still the best option for the overall health of the child. Warming the drops to room temperature in your hand or pre-treating with tylenol can help.

What do we do if my child develops yellow or green ear drainage? Is this an infection?

Tubes are not a perfect treatment and sometimes can allow water into the middle ear, bringing germs that can cause an infection. With tubes in place, often the only sign of this is yellow drainage from the ear. This is usually not painful. If this happens, you can restart the same antibiotics that were given to you after the surgery. Complete a 5 day course, using 5 drops in the affected ear twice a day. If you are out of drops (check for refills) or the drainage is not better in 48 hours, please call us at 770-691-9000
