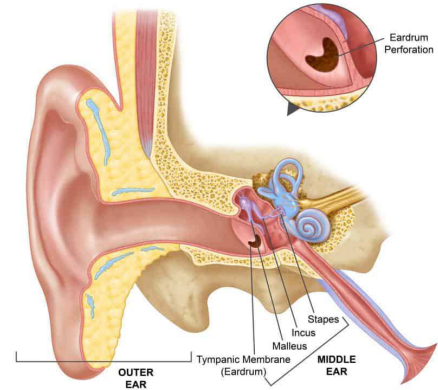


## TYMPANOPLASTY POST-OP CARE

Thank you for trusting us with the care of your child. These instructions are for children that have undergone surgery to repair the eardrum (tympanoplasty).

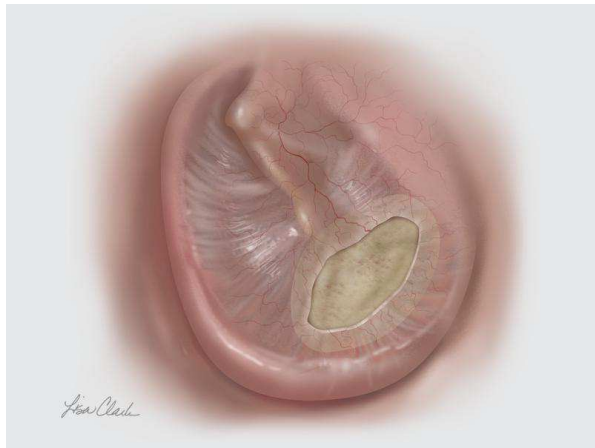


### **What is a tympanoplasty?**

A tympanoplasty is a surgical operation to repair a hole in the eardrum (tympanic membrane perforation). This may be done with a camera through the ear canal (endoscopic) or through a small incision behind the ear (open). This surgery usually takes 45 minutes to an hour and is done under general anesthesia.

### **Will my child be able to go home after the surgery?**

Yes. Children almost always can go home the day of surgery (outpatient).



### **What material will be used to repair the eardrum?**

Dr. Whitley almost always uses a material called Biodesign Otololigic Repair Graft to repair the drum and facilitate the natural healing process of the ear.

### **What is the success rate for tympanoplasty?**

A successful tympanoplasty means that the eardrum heals closed and becomes watertight. Individual success depends on numerous factors, but overall is approximately 85%.

### **When can we get the ear wet after surgery? What about bathing?**

It is critically important to keep the ear canal dry after this surgery until Dr. Whitley gives clearance for water exposure. This is typically after the 1 month postop visit. If there is an incision behind the ear, this needs to stay dry for 72 hours. We recommend either an ear plug or using a cotton ball rolled in Vaseline as an earplug to keep water out while bathing.

### **What can we expect in terms of post-operative pain after tympanoplasty?**

Our patients tell us that the pain after tympanoplasty is typically mild. We recommend alternating over the counter acetaminophen and ibuprofen at every 6 hours as needed for the first 48 hours after surgery. If you received a prescription for a narcotic pain medicine please use as instructed for breakthrough pain. Note that the patient should not drive while taking these prescription medications.

### **Will there be bleeding or discharge from the ear?**

The ear canal will be packed with absorbable gelatinous foam material to facilitate healing. This should not be removed or disturbed. Some bleeding and serous fluid is normal for the first 2-3 days after surgery and a cotton ball can be used to catch this as needed. If your child has a headwrap dressing this can be removed the morning after surgery.

### **Will my child take an antibiotic?**

Infection after tympanoplasty can lead to failure of the graft and because of this we will give you a prescription for an antibiotic to take after surgery. It is imperative that your child finish the entire course of the antibiotic to prevent infection.

### **Will I need to use ear drops?**

Yes. You will receive a prescription for ear drops (Ciprodex or ofloxacin). These are to be started 1 week after the surgery and used 4-5 drops in the ear canal twice daily for 3 weeks until your 1 month post-operative visit. This is to assist the body in absorbing the packing material naturally and to prevent infection.

### **My child's hearing is muffled after surgery, is this normal?**

Yes. To support the eardrum as it heals a gelfoam material is used as packing in the ear. This will cause the child to feel that the hearing is muffled. This will slowly improve over 3-4 weeks as the body absorbs the packing material.

### **WHEN SHOULD I CALL DR. WHITLEY?**

- Excessive bleeding or pus discharge from the ear
- Fever >103
- Child stops drinking or is getting dehydrated
- Vomiting more than 3-4 times after leaving the hospital

**IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911 OR GO TO CLOSEST ER  
CALL US 770-691-9000 WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**