

# Medical Center

In the tradition of the Medical College of Virginia

## **POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EAR TUBES**

Ear tubes are placed to treat chronic fluid behind the eardrum. Chronic fluid behind the eardrum can lead to hearing loss. The tubes usually stay in around 12 to 18 months. They usually work their way out on their own. They usually get covered with wax so you do not see them fall out. Most children outgrow the drainage problem. Most children only need one set, however some children need more. Sometimes they do not fall out as expected. It is important that an Ear specialist continues to follow your child.

A bottle of antibiotic eardrops are sometimes given to parents following tube placement.

**Directions for eardrops:** Shake the bottle before using. Place 3 drops in the ear canal with the head tilted to the other side. Push several times on the part of the ear just in front of the opening to help the drops get deep into the ear canal. Cotton can then be placed in the outer portion of the opening. Tilt head to other side and repeat.

A small amount of bloody discharge from the ears for 2 or 3 days after placement of tubes is not unusual. Drainage can also be clear or cloudy. If your child has bloody drainage after 3 days, or drainage that smells bad, please call us.

Some children may experience temporary sensitivity to loud sounds.

Any discomfort is usually relieved by Tylenol and ibuprofen. If your child seems to be having pain despite these medications, please call us.

Drops for the ears may have been prescribed. Please fill the prescription and keep the drops in the home to use if water gets into the ears.

You may swim, but please use a rubber swim cap and use the prescribed drops after finishing for the day.

Please make your return appointment in approximately three (3) weeks, or as advised by your doctor.

In case of questions or concerns, please call the office at: **(804) 628.4368**. After hours or weekends, call 828-0951 and ask to talk to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor on Call