



**Lubbock**  
SINUS DOCTOR

## **Postoperative Instructions for Tympanostomy Tubes**

1. Children may be fussy for a day. Use Tylenol, Motrin, or Advil.
2. Antibiotic ear drops are prescribed. Use 4 drops in each ear twice a day for 5 days. The ears may have some drainage after surgery. It may be bloody drainage. This is normal.
3. If your child likes to swim or submerge in the bathtub, earplugs are necessary. Custom fit earplugs are recommended.
4. Fever for a few days after surgery is possible.
5. The tubes normally migrate out of the eardrum after 6 months to 2 years. Occasionally, the tubes need to be removed in the office or operating room.
6. Sometimes, a tube will become blocked. If this doesn't resolve with ear drops, a new tube may be needed.
7. If ear problems return after the tubes come out, another set of tubes may be needed.
8. There is a small chance of developing a persistent hole in the eardrum after the tubes come out. This may be repaired with another surgery called a tympanoplasty.
9. There is still a chance of developing an ear infection even with tubes in place. This may occur with water exposure or a bad nasal infection. If the tubes are open, the infection will present as colored ear drainage. Sometimes, an ear infection with drainage will develop some bloody drainage. Drainage is treated with antibiotic ear drops.
10. After the first postoperative appointment, it is a good idea to have the tubes checked every 4 to 6 months.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I have read and understand the information provided before the date of surgery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date