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Instructions after Ear Tube Surgery

1. When your child wakes up he or she may not feel well. They may be upset initially from anesthesia. This should clear within 24 hours.
2. The procedure is generally not painful. Loud noises may cause your child some discomfort but that is generally because they are hearing better after their surgery.
3. If your child is uncomfortable, feel free to give them Tylenol according to their age/weight and the bottle directions.
4. Keep the ear canals dry. Do not let your child put their head under water at bath time. You may use cotton ball covered in Vaseline as an earplug or the wax putty plugs from drugstore or doctor's office. Remember to make the putty like a hamburger patty and place it the "bowl" of the ear. **Do not put in the ear canal.**
5. Your child may resume a regular diet as soon as he or she likes.
6. Your child will go home with drops which are to be used for typically 3 days after surgery. Please follow the instructions for use given to you at the facility.
7. Blood or clear drainage from the ears is normal but if the drainage continues after stopping the drops, please call the office. He/She may need drops for a few more days.
8. The tubes are generally designed to remain in the eardrum for six to twelve months. They usually fall out spontaneously and the eardrum heals completely without any problems. There are some variances from this where the tubes fall out early **OR** stay in too long but this is what we watch for at your routine visits.
9. The first postoperative visit should be scheduled for 1 – 2 weeks after surgery to check the tubes. Children are usually seen about 4-6 weeks after surgery for a hearing test and then every six months to check the status of the tubes.