A myringotomy with tube is a surgical procedure that makes a tiny hole (opening) in the ear drum and places a small tube in the hole. This procedure allows fluid to drain out and lets air into the space behind the ear drum. This helps to decrease the number of ear infections and improve hearing. Persistent fluid behind the ear drum and recurrent ear infections can lead to hearing loss.

Bilateral myringotomy with tubes means that your child will have surgery to place tubes in both ear drums.

After Surgery:

Your child may return to normal activities the day after surgery. It is common for your child to have ear drainage for 2 to 3 days after surgery. This fluid may be clear, dark pink or brownish in color.

Complications:

Occasionally, a small cyst (or cholesteatoma) may occur after having tubes inserted. This may need to be removed later. This complication is uncommon in most children. The rarest complication is inner ear damage that can be caused by placing a hole in the ear drum. This can cause nerve hearing loss. However, there is a greater chance of hearing loss from recurrent ear infections.

In the Future:

- Your child may experience ear drainage with a cold or ear infection. Your child’s doctor will prescribe eardrops to use while the ear is draining.
- Your child’s ear tube(s) will usually come out 6 months to 3 years after they are placed. Usually the ear drum grows behind the tube and pushes it out. It may fall out of your child’s ear or lay in the ear canal until it is removed by your child’s doctor.
- Occasionally, once the tube(s) come out, a hole may remain in the ear drum. This usually happens in children with tubes that have been in for a long time or whose Eustachian tube does not work properly. If this happens, your child may need to have surgery to close the hole in the ear drum.
- If the tubes have NOT come out after 3 years, the doctor will probably recommend they be removed during an operation under general anesthesia. A temporary patch is often placed over the hole left in the ear drum to help it heal.
- Once the tube(s) come out of your child’s ear drum, he may again have ear infections, or fluid behind the ear drum may return. Sometimes it is necessary to put in another set of tubes.

Your child’s pre-surgery appointment in the ENT Clinic:

_____/_____/____ at ____________

Your child’s surgery date:

_____/_____/____