Mycingotomy with Tube – After Surgery

A tiny tube has been placed into your child's ear drum to allow air to reach the space behind the ear drum and prevent fluid build-up. This tube will usually stay in your child's ear for 6 to 24 months. It is important to keep your child's follow-up appointment in the next 2 to 4 weeks.

Taking Care of Your Child After Surgery:

1. **Pain:** Most children do not complain of ear pain after surgery. If your child acts fussy or complains of ear pain, you may give him ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®) or acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Be sure to follow the directions on the package for the amount to give based on your child's age and weight. Do not give more than 5 doses of acetaminophen or 4 doses of ibuprofen in 24 hours.

2. **Ear Drops:** Your child's ENT doctor may have prescribed eardrops for your child to use as directed after surgery. **Save** the remaining eardrop medication after completing the initial treatment. This medication may be used in the future for ear drainage.

3. **Ear Drainage:** It is common for your child to have a small amount of clear, pink or yellowish-brown drainage for 2 or 3 days after surgery. If your child has an infection, you will notice yellow or green foul smelling drainage from your child's ear while the tubes are in place. If this occurs, wash the outside of your child's ear(s). Clean the drainage from the ear canal with a piece of rolled napkin or paper towel. Then put the eardrops (as directed) in your child's ear(s). If the drainage continues for more than 5 days and your child has a fever and/or pain, call your child's primary care doctor (PCP.) **Do not use Auralgan® drops in your child’s ears.**

4. **Diet:** Your child may eat his regular diet.

5. **Bathing:** Your child may bathe as usual after the tubes are placed. Your child's doctor may recommend ear plugs to use when bathing. If the ear(s) have drainage, it/they should be kept dry until the drainage stops.

6. **Swimming:** Your child may go swimming after surgery. Ear plugs are not required when your child swims in a pool with chlorinated water. Your child must use ear plugs when swimming in a lake, river or pond. Also when your child is swimming, do not allow your child to dive into water or swim under the surface more than 3 feet deep unless he is wearing ear plugs.

7. **Ear Plugs:** There are several different ear plugs available. Ask your ENT doctor to recommend the one(s) preferred. **MACK®** ear plugs are sold in the Children's Mercy gift shop. They cost approximately $3.00. **Custom-made** ear plugs are available through the Hearing and Speech department at Children's Mercy Hospital. Also, head bands to hold the ear plugs in place are available in the Children's Mercy gift shop.

Call your child’s doctor or the Children's Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:

- Your child has ear drainage for more than 5 days after surgery.
- Your child has a fever greater than 101° F (38.3° C).
- Your child has severe ear pain.
- You have questions or concerns regarding your child's ears or surgery.