



6303 SW 40th Street • Miami, FL 33155
Phone: 305-707-9448 • Fax: 305-707-1632
R. Antonio Portela, M.D.

MYRINGOTOMY WITH TUBE PLACEMENT

About the Surgery

- Ear tube surgery is performed under general mask anesthesia and usually lasts less than 15 minutes once your child is asleep.
- Most children are ready to go home shortly after surgery.
- Your child should not experience significant pain or prolonged recovery.
- If mild discomfort occurs, acetaminophen (Tylenol) may be given as directed.

Medications and Ear Drops

- Your ENT provider will prescribe antibiotic ear drops (Ofloxacin or Ciprodex).
- Use the drops for the first 5 days after surgery:
 - Place 4–5 drops in each ear, twice daily
- After 5 days, discontinue the drops.
- Any remaining drops may be saved for future ear drainage or infection.
- Please contact your doctor before restarting ear drops if you have any concerns.
- Do not overuse antibiotic ear drops, as excessive use may lead to fungal ear infections, which can be more difficult to treat.

Ear Drainage and Infections

- If your child develops an ear infection while tubes are in place, treatment is usually easier and more effective.
- You may notice ear drainage that is:
 - Clear ◦ Yellow ◦ Bloody
 - This can be normal when an infection is present.
- If drainage occurs:
 - You may start the prescribed ear drops ◦ Contact our office to discuss the next steps in treatment **Activity, Diet, and Water Exposure**

- There are no dietary restrictions following surgery.
- Your child may resume normal activities, including:
 - School
 - Daycare
 - Play
- Bathing, showering, and hair washing may be resumed without restriction.
- Ear protection is recommended when swimming in a pool, such as:
 - Ear plugs
 - Swim Headbands or Swim Caps

Follow-Up and Tube Care

- Regular follow-up visits are very important after ear tube placement.
- Appointments are typically scheduled every 4 months until the tubes fall out.
- Tubes usually remain in place for 6 to 18 months and most fall out on their own.
- In rare cases, a persistent hole (perforation) may remain in the eardrum following tube extrusion and may require surgical repair.

Reasons to Call the Office

Please contact our office if your child experiences:

- Ear drainage lasting longer than 5 days after surgery
- Persistent fever over 102.5°F (38.5°C)
- Ear infection or drainage at any time in the future
- Any questions or concerns regarding your child's recovery or ear health