



# SUMMIT

• HEARING ASSIST, LLC •  
PROFESSIONAL HEARING SERVICES

## Instructions Concerning Middle Ear Tubes

- General Information
- Serous otitis media is a condition in which pressure and fluid accumulate in the middle ear space, causing hearing loss and the risk of infection. Myringotomy is an operation in which a microscopic incision is made in the eardrum and fluid is removed through this incision. To keep the hole from healing immediately, a small plastic tube is placed into the incision. As long as the tube is in place, the pressure remains normal and fluid does not accumulate. The tube remains in place for several weeks to approximately six months. The tubes will gradually migrate out of the ear canal and fall out like a piece of ear wax or they can be easily removed if necessary. Myringotomies are performed under general anesthesia for small children and in the office under local anesthesia for adults and older children.
- Post Operative Instructions
- Expected Signs and Symptoms
- Expect a small amount of drainage (sometimes bloody) for the first 24 hours
- There may be a small amount of pain in the few hours following surgery. You may use Tylenol or Advil.
- No physical exertion the day of surgery. The following day you may return to normal activity.
- Important to Remember
- You must protect your ear from water. Place a clean plug of cotton dipped in Vaseline into ear canal when showering or washing hair.
- Swimming without ear plugs and all diving are forbidden while tubes are in place.
- Notify Office of the Following Concerns
- Report any drainage persisting past 24 hours especially if thick and foul smelling.
- Report persistent changes in pressure or hearing. This may mean the tubes have come out and you will need to make an office appointment.
- Post Operative Office Appointment
- The tube placement will be checked in 2 weeks to be sure of proper healing. Following that, every 2-3 months until they are out.