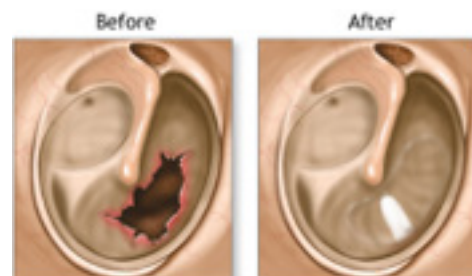




Myringoplasty Pediatric Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS A MYRINGOPLASTY?

A myringoplasty is a procedure performed to help a perforation (hole) in the eardrum heal. This surgery is usually performed at the same time an ear tube is physically removed from the eardrum. A myringoplasty can also be performed in the event of a non-healing, or poorly healing, perforation.



HOW DO YOU PERFORM A MYRINGOPLASTY?

During a myringoplasty, a cellulose (paper) patch is placed over the eardrum, effectively covering the perforation. This patch will encourage the tissue surrounding the hole to heal together.

IS THE PATCH PERMANENT?

No. As the tissue surrounding the perforation heals, the patch will slough off of the eardrum and eventually be extruded with your child's normal ear wax.

WILL THE PATCH PERMANENTLY HEAL MY CHILD'S EARDRUM?

Usually, I am able to close a patient's eardrum perforation with just one myringoplasty. However, due to the patient's anatomy and past surgical history, numerous surgeries may need to be performed.

HOW LONG DOES THE SURGERY TAKE?

After the child is asleep, the surgical procedure usually takes five to ten minutes. Your child will be able to go home the day of surgery following a recovery and observation period. You should allow at least a few hours to account for the preoperative, surgical, and recovery periods.

WHY DOES THE PROCEDURE NEED TO BE DONE IN A HOSPITAL OR DAY SURGERY CENTER?

Though a myringoplasty is common and safe, it does require general anesthesia so your child will not move during the procedure. In adults, it is usually done in the office with only a local anesthesia. An operative room setting is needed with general anesthesia as there is a very low danger that a child may vomit food or liquid that could be inhaled into the lungs. To help prevent this, your child's stomach must be empty before surgery. There is usually no eating or drinking after midnight the night before. This, of course, means no breakfast.

CAN MY CHILD GO HOME THE SAME DAY AFTER EAR TUBE PLACEMENT?

When your child is fully awake, and has met the recovery discharge criteria, you will be allowed to go home.

WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE CAN I EXPECT WHEN MY CHILD WAKES UP?

Occasionally a child will wake up crying and upset, but that is not the norm. The effects from the anesthesia may range from none at all to nausea and dizziness. This can even last a few days. A delayed case of nausea may be triggered by the ride home in your car, so come prepared.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AFTER A MYRINGOPLASTY?

You will be prescribed ear drops to use after surgery. **You will, however, need to wait SEVEN DAYS before starting the ear drops.**

A myringoplasty is generally painless; however, some minor ear or throat pain is not unusual on the day of surgery. This is easily remedied with over the counter Tylenol or Motrin.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO AVOID AFTER A MYRINGOPLASTY?

Your child can participate in all normal activities.

Your child will need to **avoid the use of earplugs, over-the-ear headphones**, or any device that can increase the amount of suction in your ear canal for **SIX WEEKS**.

Your child will also need to **refrain from submerging their head in water** (ex. laying down in the bathtub, swimming, etc.) for **SIX WEEKS** after surgery. Allowing water to run into your child's ears during a shower is, however, not a problem.

WHEN DOES MY CHILD NEED TO FOLLOW UP AFTER A MYRINGOPLASTY?

A check-up with your child's ENT provider will need to be scheduled for ONE TO TWO WEEKS after their surgery. Your child will also be scheduled for a hearing test SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS after their surgery.

Contact my office or go to the nearest emergency room if your child has:

- Heavy bleeding from the ears
- Fever over 101°F
- Severe ear pain
- Excessive or foul-smelling drainage from the ears

As a Christian, I strongly believe in prayer and pray for all of my patients, especially during surgery. If you would like me to pray with you and your family before any surgical procedure, please ask.

DO NOT hesitate to contact our office for any emergency at 580-421-6470. If a problem should arise when the office is closed, you may have us paged through the Mercy Hospital, ADA Operator at 580-332-2323; or go directly to the nearest Emergency Room.

More information can be found at www.LandrumENT.com.