

# Hill Country

## Ear, Nose, and Throat, P.A

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### **Myringotomy with Tube Placement**

#### **Indications:**

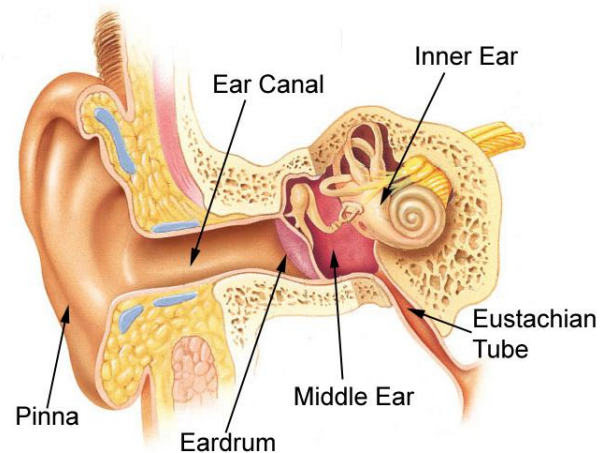
Myringotomy with tube placement may be recommended by your doctor for repeated ear infections or persistent fluid in the middle ear space. Also, myringotomy tubes may be needed to ventilate the middle ear space for Eustachian tube dysfunction and retracted eardrums. The purpose of the tubes is to keep the middle ear space ventilated so the fluid does not accumulate there and reduce the frequency and duration of infections.

#### **Procedure:**

A small incision is made in the eardrum, then a very small ventilation tube is inserted into the incision. The procedure is performed with the use of an operating microscope. It is performed during a brief general anesthesia in the operating room for children. For some adults, this can be performed in the office with local anesthesia. It is an outpatient procedure and takes only a few minutes to complete. There is little to no pain caused by the procedure.

#### **How long do the tubes stay in?**

The tubes usually stay in for about one year. The eardrum slowly pushes the tube (extrudes) into the ear canal and then it falls out of the ear. Sometimes the tube can extrude earlier (a few months after placement) or later than one year; rarely the tubes will need to be removed if they have not extruded after a few (3-4) years.



**Risks:** Rarely a persistent hole in the ear drum can remain when the tube come out. This is called a perforation. This happens in about 1% of patients. This may need to be repaired with another procedure. Persistent or recurrent ear drainage from the tubes can occur after placement. In general, this can be successfully treated with ear drops.

### **What should I expect after surgery?**

There may be blood or mucous which drains from the ears for a few days after the procedure. There will usually be antibiotic ear drops to place in the ears for one week, or until the drainage stops, whichever is longer.

For the first 3 weeks after the tubes have been placed, when bathing or showering, put a cotton ball coated with Vaseline ointment in the ear to prevent water from getting in the tubes.

You will need to follow up with the doctor's office within 3 weeks after the surgery and have a repeat hearing test. After that, you will need to follow up every 4-6 months to have the tubes checked.

### **How will this affect my child's hearing?**

Fluid or mucous in the middle ear space can reduce the transmission of sound to the hearing nerve, temporarily, reducing hearing. Patients with hearing loss caused by fluid in the middle ear, will have improved hearing immediately after the tubes are place.

### **Precautions to avoid drainage from the tubes**

- ❖ Prevent exposure to cigarette smoke
- ❖ Keep the ears clean and dry
- ❖ Treat patient for airborne allergies if indicated

