

## Ear Tubes

### Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4

604-875-2113 1-888-300-3088

www.bcchildrens.ca

### What to expect after surgery

#### Pain

- Your child might have some pain. This is usually mild and goes away in the first day. You can give your child Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Advil (Ibuprofen) to help. Follow the instructions on the bottle.

#### Ear drainage

- Your child may have small amounts of blood-stained fluid come out of their ears for 1-2 days. This is normal.

#### Activity

- The day after surgery, your child can resume their normal activities if they feel ready. Some doctors say no swimming for approximately 1-2 weeks after surgery.
- Your child can go swimming in a swimming pool or the ocean, even with the tubes in. If your child is swimming in other types of water, like a lake or pond, they should wear swimming ear plugs. You can buy them in the gift shop or at your local pharmacy. Diving should be avoided.
- Your child can take a bath or shower as they normally would. Keep soapy water out of the ears. If your child likes to play in their bath water, they should wear swimming ear plugs.
- There is no restriction on air travel.



#### Call the ENT Clinic Nurse or Seek Medical Attention if:

- Your child has a fever of 38.5°C or higher that lasts for more than 24 hours, starting 2 or more days after surgery
- Your child's pain does not get better with pain medicine.
- There is yellow or smelly fluid coming out of your child's ear for more than 2 days after surgery.
- You have other worries about your child.



#### Follow up

- Your child should return to the clinic for a follow-up visit 6-12 weeks after their surgery. Their doctor may ask them to take a hearing test before the visit.
- After your child's surgery, call your doctor's office to schedule this visit.



#### Contact information

- ENT office:  
604-875-2113
- ENT clinic nurse:  
604-875-2345 ext. 7053  
Monday to Fridays, except holidays  
8:30am-4:30pm