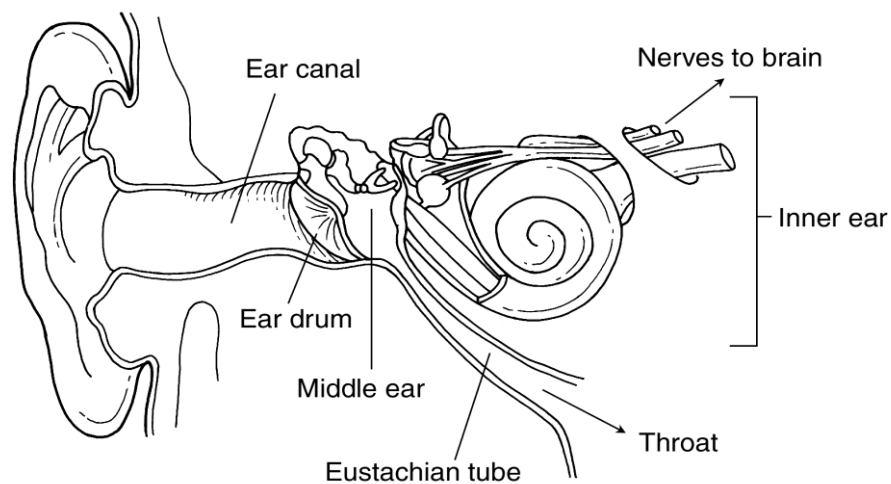


What is a myringoplasty?

A myringoplasty is surgery to fix or close a hole or tear in the eardrum. Your child may need this surgery if they have:

- Ear tubes for more than 2 years.
- Ear tubes that fell out and left a hole.
- Injury to the ear (such as trauma or infection) that caused a hole in the eardrum.

There are a few ways the doctor can do the surgery. This depends on where the hole is and what the doctor thinks is best. Talk with the doctor about the type of surgery your child needs.



Ear drum and other parts of the ear

What should I expect after surgery?

Your child's doctor will talk with you about what to expect. Your child may have:

- Mild ear pain.
- A low grade fever (temperature lower than 101.5°F).
- Ear drainage for 2 to 3 days that may look a little bloody. This is common.
- The feeling to pull at their ears for a few days because their ears may feel different to them.
- Reduced hearing. This is due to swelling of the ear tissues and packing. It may take 6 to 8 weeks for hearing to improve and for the eardrum to completely heal.
- Dizziness or an upset stomach right after surgery. This is not common.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Myringoplasty, continued

How should I care for my child after surgery?

Your child's doctor will talk to you about specific care for your child. Some guidelines include:

- Give acetaminophen (Tylenol or less costly store brand) for pain if advised by your child's doctor. You may use acetaminophen rectal suppositories if your child is vomiting (throwing up).
 - Follow the directions on the box carefully, or ask your child's doctor how much medicine to give.
 - Do not give your child more than 5 doses of acetaminophen in a 24-hour period.
 - Do not give acetaminophen to babies younger than 3 months old without a doctor's order.
- Ask the doctor if you can give ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil or less costly store brand) for pain. Do not give ibuprofen to babies younger than 6 months old without a doctor's order.
- The doctor may prescribe pain medicine.
 - Give it to your child exactly as prescribed.
 - Some prescription pain medicines have acetaminophen in them. Avoid giving your child acetaminophen if the prescribed medicine already contains it.
- **Avoid getting water in your child's ears until the doctor tells you it is OK.**
 - Have your child wear earplugs when they take a bath, shower and wash their hair.
 - If you do not have earplugs:
 - Put some petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, on 2 cotton balls.
 - Then put 1 cotton ball in each ear.
 - Use a hair dryer to dry water from the ears. Be sure to use only warm air, and hold the dryer far enough away from the skin to prevent burns.
- Have your child drink plenty of fluids if not limited by the doctor.
- Do not allow your child to try to relieve pressure in the ears by holding their nose and blowing air through the ears.
- Do not allow your child to blow their nose until the doctor says the ear is healed. Teach them to wipe their nose with a tissue instead.

How should I feed my child after surgery?

- You can feed your child a regular diet unless they are sick to their stomach.
- Using straws to drink may cause some discomfort to your child's ears. Have your child avoid using straws if this happens.

What activities can my child do after surgery?

- Your child may do most activities the day after surgery. This includes going to school or day care. Have them avoid sports and physical activities for a few weeks or until advised by the doctor.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Myringoplasty, continued

- Avoid flying until the doctor says it is OK. If your child must travel by plane:
 - Give them liquids to make sure they swallow during altitude changes, such as when the plane takes off and lands.
 - School-age children can chew gum to help with this.
- Avoid water activities (like swimming) until the doctor says it is OK.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor **right away** if your child:

- Has a fever higher than 101.5°F that does not come down with acetaminophen or as your child's doctor instructs.
- Vomits (throws up) for more than 6 hours.
- Has bad-smelling drainage from the ears.
- Has pain that gets worse and is not helped by medicine prescribed by the doctor.
- Has vertigo (feels off balance) or feels dizzy and symptoms do not seem to get better within 24 hours after surgery.

Also call if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.