

### What is Tympanoplasty?

This is the surgery to repair and sometimes reconstruct the tympanic membrane or eardrum. This is typically performed because of a perforation or hole in the ear drum or cholesteatoma or skin cyst. Tympanic membrane grafting or patching may be required. The material used to repair the eardrum is typically taken from tissue behind the ear. This surgery may be done through either the ear canal or with an incision behind the ear. The post-auricular incision (behind the ear) provides the surgeon with a view of the ear canal, ear drum, nerves, and surrounding structures.

### What is a Mastoidectomy?

This is a surgical procedure to remove a portion of the mastoid bone. The mastoid bone is connected to the middle ear located behind the ear drum. A mastoidectomy is typically done because of an infection of the mastoid bone (mastoiditis) or ear infections, middle ear masses or cysts usually cholesteatoma.

### What are the risks of Tympanoplasty and mastoidectomy?

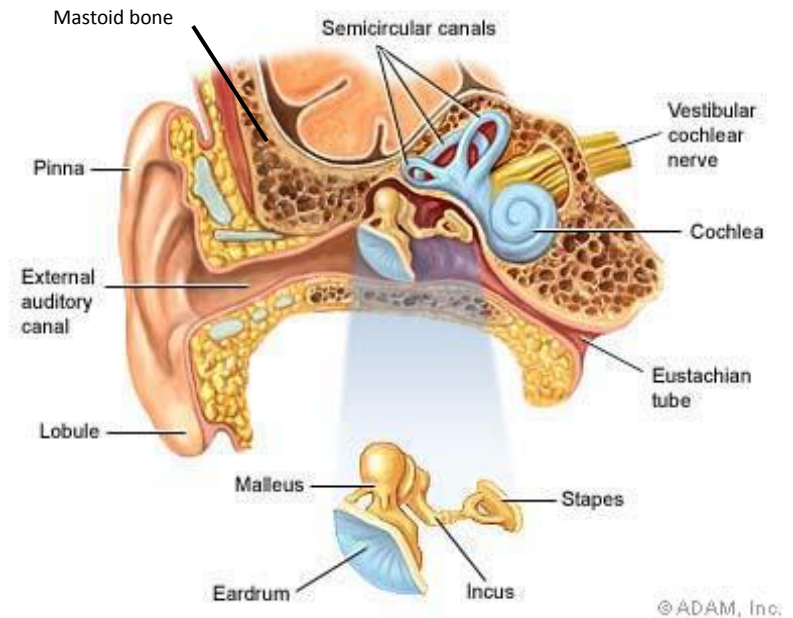
This information covers most known risks for this surgery. Complications are very rare. When considering surgery it is important to weigh risks and benefits of the surgery. The following complications have been reported in the medical literature: pain, bleeding or infection, dizziness, tympanic membrane perforation, recurrence of cholesteatoma, hearing loss, change in taste, or injury to the facial nerve. The facial nerve (one of the nerves for facial expression and taste) travels through the ear canal and the mastoid cavity.

### Are there activity restrictions after surgery?

Quiet activity for day of surgery, routine activities may be resumed in 2-5 days. Most children return to school in 3 to 5 days if eating and sleeping well and pain-free. Vigorous exercise, heavy lifting, and physical education activities should be avoided for 2 weeks. No swimming until advised by your doctor, typically in 4-6 weeks.

### What are the common complaints after surgery?

- **Nausea and vomiting** may occur for the first 24 to 48 hours.
- **Pain:** Mild to moderate ear pain and/or pain at the incision site for 3 to 5 days is expected.
- **Fever:** A low-grade fever may be observed several days.
- **Ear Drainage after Surgery.** Packing material is placed in the ear canal; sometimes there is clear, pink, or bloody drainage from the ear for 3-5 days. This may also occur when ear drops are started.
- **Dizziness or unsteadiness:** Dizziness is common for several days.
- **Decreased hearing** in the operated ear for several weeks.



### What medications are prescribed after surgery?

- **Pain control:** Acetaminophen (Tylenol) liquid solution may be given. Some children will require prescription pain medication. Pain may be worse during evening; some children should be given medication at night.
- **NO** ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) or aspirin for two weeks after surgery **unless otherwise** instructed by physician.
- **Antibiotic eardrops** may be prescribed two weeks after surgery. Give drops at room temperature.
- **Antibiotics** may be prescribed for 7 to 10 days.

### Are there special precautions after ear surgery?

1. **No nose blowing** for two weeks. Sneeze with an open mouth.
2. **Water Precautions:** Keep ear canal dry for the first two weeks; place cotton ball coated with Vaseline in the ear(s) when bathing. Hair may be washed two days after surgery. The sutures may get wet but the ear canal should stay dry. No swimming for usually 4 to 6 weeks. The physician will advise you when the ear can get wet.
3. **Wound and suture line care:** A large dressing is usually applied after surgery and should be left in place for one-two days. After the dressing is removed (at your appointment or at home as instructed by your doctor), clean the incision with hydrogen peroxide and apply bacitracin ointment. Use Q-tips or cotton balls to clean the incision. Wash your hands before and after cleaning the incision. Apply a cotton ball to the outside of the ear canal if drainage is present.
4. **Keep the incision protected from the sun** for 6 to 12 months, keep covered or apply sunscreen.

### When should I call the physician?

- **Fever** greater than 102°
- **Severe ear pain** or pain noted more than 7 days after surgery
- **Excessive drainage or blood** from the ears
- **Swelling or drainage** from incision site
- **Dizziness** that lasts for more than one week

**Please call us for questions or concerns.** During business hours: Stacey Ishman, M.D. 410-502-3225, Sandra Lin, M.D. 410-614-6243, Emily Boss, M.D. 410-955-9772, Margaret Skinner, M.D. 410-502-6625, David Tunkel, M.D. 410-955-1559, Melinda DeSell, C.R.N.P. 410-502-6188.

**For emergencies: 410-955-6070, ask for the Pediatric Otolaryngology physician (Peds ENT) on-call.**