

After your Child's Ear Surgery

Children's Services
ENT

Introduction

This patient information leaflet is for children who have had recent surgery of the ear.

When can my child return to school?

Your child is likely to make a very quick recovery and should be able to return to school promptly.

- Myringoplasty – usually within 3-5 days
- Mastoid surgery – usually within 1-2 weeks

Can my child swim after ear surgery?

It is advisable to keep your child's ear dry following surgery, this means no swimming and avoiding submerging the head under water in the bath. Showering and hair washing can be undertaken but we would recommend plugging the bowl-shaped part of the ear with a cotton wool ball coated in Vaseline.

It is important to keep the ear dry for at least 6 weeks and await review in the ENT clinic

Following on from this, if your child is a very keen swimmer or prone to ear infections then ear-plugs [eg. putty-buddies] and a protective headband [eg. Ear band-it] can be purchased and worn.

What if my child is in pain?

A small amount of discomfort is to be expected in and around the ear for the first few days but should usually be controlled with simple analgesia such as paracetamol and ibuprofen. Pain should get better each day. If the pain is getting worse or not controlled with simple pain relief then seek immediate advice from the team.

Occasionally your child may feel a little unsteady or dizzy, but this should also settle down within a few days.

Will there be any dressings to look after?

If your child has had a myringoplasty or undergone mastoid surgery it is likely a dressing will have been placed in the ear at time of surgery. This dressing is to be left in the ear until your next review in the ENT clinic, this will be made 2-3 weeks after the day of surgery.

A small amount of discharge from the ear canal is normal.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Pope-wick dressings: These dressings can be left alone but you will be prescribed ear drops to keep the dressing soft. If the dressing falls out don't worry, continue with the drops and await your review.

Ribbon-gauze dressings: These are long dressings coated in antibiotic cream and folded in the ear, these dressings are to be left alone and kept dry. Sometimes the dressing can unwind and start to hang out of the ear, if this occurs there is no cause for concern, simply cut the loose bit of dressing with scissors and leave the rest in place.

Scan the QR code below for further information.



English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਆਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。