



## POSTOPERATIVE CARE OF THE MYRINGOTOMY PATIENT

### **Water Protection**

Patients should protect the ears by placing earplugs in the ears when swimming and bathing (as directed by the patient's physician).

Plugs may be silicone wax, custom made or cotton balls coated with Vaseline.

Patients should use earplugs as long as the tubes remain in place, as directed by the patient's doctor.

### **Eardrops**

The physician will prescribe eardrops at the pre-op visit, and the patient will begin taking them the evening after they have surgery. Please see the label from the pharmacy to determine how many days the patient should use the drops after surgery, as this time frame varies by physician.

### **Ear drainage**

Drainage of fluid from an ear with a tube in it is not normal, but it is common, especially in children during upper respiratory infections.

The drainage may be clear, white, yellow, green, orange or red.

If the ear begins to drain, please follow these instructions:

- Start using the eardrops and continue using them twice daily for seven days unless the patient experiences burning. This burning usually indicates that the infection is clearing. Decrease the number of drops until they no longer burn. Discontinue drops if one drop burns.
- If the ear is red or swollen, or if you do not feel the eardrops are going down into your ear canal, please contact your physician's nurse.
- Do not instill drops in an ear that is not draining. Doing so may cause pain, dizziness or hearing loss.

Please contact our office at 478-743-8953 if you have any questions or concerns.