



Mastoidectomy

Mastoidectomy is an operation to remove disease from the bone behind the ear when medical management is inadequate. Common causes for this are chronic ear infections, repeated ear draining, eardrum disease, and/or cholesteatoma (skin cyst in the middle ear). Sometimes a mastoidectomy is required in order to gain better exposure to the disease and to allow for better middle ear repair. Although complications do not often occur, they include persistent ear drainage, infection in the mastoid cavity, and hearing loss. Weakness of the face on the side of the surgery is a rare but potential hazard in mastoid surgery. There may be dizziness for a short time after surgery, but it is rarely permanent. Loss of taste on the side of the tongue may occur and last a few weeks or may be permanent.

You will have a post-op appointment 1 month and 3 months following surgery. Your hearing will be rechecked at your 3-month visit after surgery.

Post-op Instructions

1. Remove the outer cup dressing in 48 hours. When the cup comes off, remove the underlying cotton ball.
2. Do not remove any of the packing in the ear canal. This will dissolve or be removed by Dr. Tanner at your return visit, typically in 4 weeks.
3. May shower in 48 hours when the cup comes off. Use a cotton ball coated in Vaseline placed to the side of your canal for showers/baths so that water doesn't go down the ear canal; remove after showering. No swimming until after the postoperative visit and told that the eardrum is healed.
4. Steristrips behind the ear typically fall off in 10-14 days; if they do not, the patient/caregiver may peel them off at 2 weeks.
5. Take pain medication as needed.
6. One week before your follow-up appointment with Dr. Tanner, begin to apply eardrops 2 times per day, 3 drops each time. This is critical as drops keep skin moist and help healing occur faster. They soften the packing, making it easier to remove and helping it dissolve faster.
7. No lifting objects heavier than 5 lbs for 2 weeks. Light activity is recommended, with no strenuous/vigorous activity until the follow-up appointment. No swimming.
8. It is normal for the ear to protrude a bit for 1-2 months after surgery. It is normal to have some drainage from either the ear canal or the incision after surgery.

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