

ENT

Tympanoplasty

Introduction

A tympanoplasty is a reconstruction of the ear drum with or without reconstruction of the small bones of hearing in the middle ear (Ossiculoplasty)

Your child may need the operation to improve their hearing and or stop the middle ear becoming infected.

Guidance to patients and parents

The operation will be performed under general anaesthetic and may be performed in one of several different ways. The surgeon will make a cut behind the either behind or in front of the ear to get a good view of the ear drum, and a piece of tissue (from near the ear) or a piece of synthetic material will be used to repair the ear drum. If the small bones of hearing need to be repaired this may be done with a metal prosthesis or with tissue from close to the ear. The tissue is put in place using fine instruments under a microscope.

Your child will have a yellow-coloured ribbon gauze dressing in their ear. This dressing will need to stay in the ear for up to 4 weeks to allow the wound to heal properly. The nursing staff will arrange for an appointment for this dressing to be removed. There may be some discharge through the dressing for several days after the operation; this is normal. This can be cleaned from the outside of the ear with a clean tissue. A small piece of cotton wool can be placed in the ear canal, to soak up the discharge. This cotton wool can be changed as necessary. If a small bit of this dressing comes out of the ear, please cut it off with a pair of scissors. Do not poke the end back into the ear.

While you are waiting, you can use any extra time in a positive way to help your child to be healthier before their surgery. This can reduce the risk of complications, support their recovery and benefit their long-term health. Here are the ways that your child and whole family can be put yourself in the best place to have your surgery.



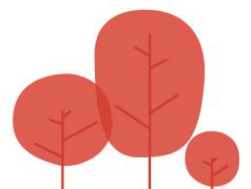
By your side

- Eating more healthily – A healthy diet is important to a child's development, and even more important prior to surgery. Preventing iron deficiency can reduce the risk of requiring a blood transfusion and improve recovery after surgery. Iron rich diets are the best way to achieve this, although sometimes iron supplements are necessary to top up iron levels.
- Getting control of asthma – Asthma is common in childhood and if poorly controlled can cause problems during the anaesthetic. An assessment of the level of control can be made using the Asthma Control Test (www.asthmacontroltest.com). If support or improvements are required please seek advice from your GP or practice asthma nurse.
- Creating a smoke-free home – Children who are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke are twice as likely to suffer airway or breathing problems during or after the operation. If you, or a family member, would like support stopping smoking visit the NHS website for advice and support.
- Getting the right vaccinations – It's important that children and adults have vaccinations at the right time for the best protection. If you or your child have missed a vaccine, contact your GP to catch up.
- Moving more – National guidelines for physical activity recommend 180 minutes per day for pre-schoolers and 60 minutes per day for school-age children.
- Having a health check – If your child is over 14 years of age and has a learning disability they can have a free annual health check at your GP surgery.

Health and wellbeing if you have to wait

If, for any reason, your child's condition gets worse or you are worried about one of the below please see your GP, call 111 or seek urgent medical attention.

- High temperature
- Not eating
- Not drinking
- Persistent vomiting
- Increased Pain



Contact us

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