



Bilateral Myringotomy and Tympanostomy

Tube Placement Information

This surgical procedure has been practiced in the United States for well over 100 years and has a well-established record for helping children lead healthier lives!

Many children, particularly infants and toddlers, have Eustachian tube dysfunction causing fluid to become backed up pressing against the eardrum. This can cause ear pain, recurrent ear infections, and even hearing loss over time. Children are more prone to this than adults because the Eustachian tubes are shorter and more flat.

During the operation, a very small cut (“myringotomy”) will be made in the eardrum. Any fluid that was present will be drained out of the middle ear. A small hollow tube (“tympanostomy tube”) will be placed in the slit that was made in the eardrum. This tube prevents the build-up of fluid behind the eardrum and cannot be seen or felt from the outside. The tubes usually remain in the ears for 6-18 months and usually fall out by themselves.

The surgery itself normally takes around 10 minutes to complete, but, together with the other parts of the process (going to sleep, waking up, and transit between pre-/post-op and the Operating Room), the time between your child leaving your side and you being together in the recovery room may be 30 minutes or longer.