

HOME CARE AFTER **HAVING VENTILATION TUBES**

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Ear tubes have several names: Pressure Equalization (PE) Tubes, Ventilation Tubes, Grommets, etc. Regardless of the name, the procedure is the same. A small incision is made in the eardrum and a ventilation tube is placed through the incision to allow air to enter the space behind the eardrum. This is usually done to treat ear infections and/or fluid in the middle ear.

General Information:

Pressure equalization (PE) tubes do not cause pain. General anesthesia is used to make the procedure more comfortable and ensure the patient will be still during placement of the tube. After the procedure, pain is usually not a concern. Immediately after the procedure children are often irritable and this may last 30 to 60 minutes. This is due to the initial confusion and disorientation after anesthesia and will quickly pass. Your child will return to normal later in the day.

What to Expect:

For several days following surgery there may be drainage from the ears. The drainage may vary from clear mucus to bloody discharge. This is to be expected. Drainage that resembles pus is usually not normal and you should contact this office.

The drainage usually stops several days after surgery. Drainage may return any time your child has a cold or nasal congestion. It is not uncommon for the same discharge to drain from your child's ears and nose during these times. This drainage can be treated with decongestants and, sometimes, antibiotics. If the discharge resembles pus, please contact this office for instructions.