

## **TYMPANOSTOMY TUBES PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS**

### Medications

- Usually right after the operation, there is no pain. A mild earache is common, and a mild fever up to 101.5°F is not uncommon. Both can be treated with Tylenol.
- If you had an ear infection at the time of the surgery, you will be prescribed antibiotic eardrops. Use 4 drops, 2 times a day for 3 days. Before using your eardrops, warm the bottle(s) by rolling them between your hands for 2 minutes. This mixes and warms the suspended medication. Drop the eardrops onto the ear canal, not directly into the hole.

### Drainage

- This is common during the first week after surgery. If it lasts longer than one week, call the office

### Activity

- For at least 1 week after surgery **KEEP YOUR EARS DRY! DO NOT GET YOUR EARS WET.** For showers and swimming, insert a cotton ball coated with Vaseline into the shell of the ear.

### Follow-up

- You should schedule a follow-up visit one month after the tubes are inserted and then every 6 months after that. The appointment should be set at your pre-op visit; otherwise, call the office to make the appointment.

### COMPLICATIONS:

- Ear Infection: If your child experiences drainage from the ear (white, yellow, green or bloody) that indicates an ear infection. Start using the eardrops given at surgery for 3 days. If the drainage continues, phone the office for oral antibiotics. If your child has been draining longer than a week, they need an appointment in the office.
- Ear Perforation: After the tube comes out, the eardrum usually heals in 24 hours. In rare instances, it will not. We will continue to watch the hole as most heal over time. If it does not, then surgical repair will be needed.