

**C R A I G**  
**FACIAL PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY**  
**OTOLARYNGOLOGY**

**TREATMENT OF SEROUS OTITIS MEDIA**  
**BILATERAL MYRINGOTOMY W/VENTILATION TUBES - BMT**

Serous otitis media is not the same as a middle ear infection. However, the presence of fluid can lead to infection. The cause of serous otitis media is blockage of the eustachian tube from repeated infection, allergy, enlarged adenoids, and other causes. Pressure between the nose and middle ear cannot be equalized, and the ear becomes inflamed. Fluid is formed, and the longer this blockage exists, the more thick and glue-like the fluid becomes. Because the middle ear space is filled with fluid, sound is not transmitted as well to the inner ear, and a conductive hearing loss occurs.

To regain normal middle ear and eustachian tube function, your child has been scheduled for surgical treatment. Myringotomies and placement of ventilation tubes (BMT) are to be performed to achieve normal function of the middle ear.

This procedure is performed in the hospital under general anesthesia. An operating microscope is used to visualize the eardrum where a tiny incision is made. Fluid is then suctioned from the middle ear space and a small tube is inserted through the incision. The ventilating tube temporarily takes the place of the eustachian tube in equalizing pressure. Normally, the tube remains in the eardrum for 6 to 24 months. As the eardrum grows, the tubes fall out of the canal on their own. We like to examine our patients every 4 to 6 months until the tubes extrude. The eardrum heals in about 99% of patients. In less than 1% of patients, a small hole may remain, which may have to be repaired at a later time.

The goal of tube placement is to prevent most ear infections. But if an infection does develop, the ear will drain through the tube. Please call the office or notify Dr. Craig if drainage does occur.

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**POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - BMT**

1. Cortisporin ophthalmic drops are provided by the hospital and are to be used; 3 drops per ear, 3 times a day for 3 days in ear(s) with the tube(s).
2. It is normal to have a little bloody drainage from the ear(s) the first day. If drainage continues, please notify us.
3. Take oral antibiotics prescribed for the **FULL** 10-day course.
4. A small amount of pain can occasionally occur, but not usually. Intense pain should be reported. A fever above 101°F/38.3°C should also be reported.
5. **KEEP WATER OUT OF EARS** - Earplugs should be worn during bathing, swimming and any other activity that could cause water to enter the ear canal. Water in the ear can cause infection.

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