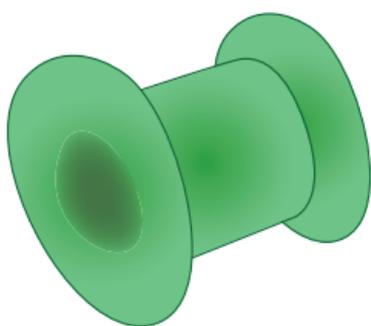

Explaining surgery to your child

EAR TUBES

Your mom or dad brought you to see a special doctor today because your ears have been bothering you. Sometimes when they bother you it can hurt, or sound like you are underwater. This special doctor knows a lot about ears. Sometimes when germs grow in your ears, they become infected. The doctor knows how to make your ears feel better and get them healthy again.

During your visit, the doctor checked your ears with an Otoscope; a fancy name for a special flashlight used for looking inside of ears. When she looked in your ears, she could tell that they had an infection. The doctor might have squeezed the ball hanging on the Otoscope to blow a puff of air into your ear to see if your ear drum moved up and down (yes, like a real drum). When your ear has an infection, your ear drum doesn't drum like it should because there is fluid inside that doesn't want to come out. This is where the germs make an infection. Sometimes you can use medicine to fight these germs, but when you have a lot of ear infections this medicine doesn't work.

When your mom or dad told the doctor that you have a lot of ear infections, they made a plan to make your ears feel better by using something called ear tubes. Some kids think ear tubes are really long and big, but they are not. Ear tubes are so small, you won't even feel them. Ear tubes will help your ears not to get infected because they will help make the fluid come out of your ears, instead of being stuck inside. When the fluid comes, out your ears won't bother you anymore. When your ears are healthy again and no longer need the ear tubes, they will fall out all by themselves. You won't feel them, and you might not even see them!



Temporary ear tube



Actual size

On the day of surgery

On the day when your ear tubes are being put in, you won't have breakfast. You will go to the doctor's office and a nurse will give you special clothes and warm socks to wear. You will also get a bracelet with your name on it! The doctor and the nurses will be wearing special hospital clothes too. Even a puffy blue hat. When the doctor is ready, you will ride on your bed (it has wheels!) into another room with your family member. The lights will be bright, but this helps the doctors to see better. You will move to another bed and lie down. A nurse will give you an astronaut's mask to help you breathe special air that has medicine. She will even let you choose a flavor (strawberry, banana, bubble gum, root beer)! This will make you feel dizzy and sleepy. You will stay asleep until the doctor is all done making your ears feel better with the ear tubes. You will not feel, see, or hear anything while you are sleeping. When you wake up, you will be in a different bed in the resting room. You might see a nurse before you see your mom or dad, but you will go home very soon!

What to Expect

- Clear or blood tinted liquid out of one or two ears. Should stop within 1–3 days.

Go to the ED if

- Bright red blood drains from ears
- Ear pain is not relieved by non-aspirin pain relievers
- A temperature of 101° F or higher
- Vomiting more than six hours
- Dehydration (dry mouth, decreased amount of urine, no tears when he or she cries)