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## Tympanoplasty and Ossiculoplasty Surgery

The normal middle ear consists of an eardrum (tympanic membrane) connected to 3 bones of hearing (ossicles) which conduct sound to the inner ear. Some individuals, because of repeated ear infections or trauma, may have a hole in the eardrum or erosion or dislocation of one of these bones of hearing. These problems are typically felt as hearing loss. In such case, one of two operations, called tympanoplasty and ossiculoplasty, can be performed to restore hearing. In a tympanoplasty, the diseased portion of the eardrum is removed and repaired using a patient's own connective tissue, usually taken from beneath the scalp area. In an ossiculoplasty, eroded bones of hearing are modified or replaced by a tiny prosthesis.

The operation is delicate and meticulous and may take from 1 to 3 hours to perform, using an operating microscope. There are a variety of approaches and variants in tympanomastoid surgery; your surgeon will discuss these with you prior to surgery. The operation can be performed under local (awake) or general (asleep) anesthesia on a "same day" basis. Discomfort is usually mild and the time lost from work is brief.

Following surgery, a head dressing will be worn 1 to 2 days. Pain is usually mild, prescriptions are given to control pain and prevent infection. Aspirin, Motrin, Advil or similar pain medications should NOT be taken for 3 weeks after, or 2 weeks prior to surgery. Tylenol is fine.

Keep all water away from your ear after surgery by using a shower cap or by taking a tub bath for the first week. During the second week after surgery, you may get the outer ear wet, but keep the ear canal dry by placing a single large plug of cotton mixed with Vaseline in the ear canal before showering. Remove the cotton after showering; do NOT leave it in place. For 2 weeks after surgery, you should not lift objects over 30 pounds or blow your nose (sniffing is okay). If you sneeze or cough open your mouth widely to keep pressure off the ear. You will have appointments at 1 week and 2 weeks after surgery to remove stitches and packing from your ear. Your hearing will remain blocked until then. If your hearing becomes substantially worse or if you become very dizzy, call the office.