

Mastoid Surgery

Leaving the hospital:

1. If you have not already been given a postoperative appointment, please ring and arrange a visit for approximately 1 and 3 weeks after surgery to check the wound and arrange ear canal pack removal.
2. Any medication prescribed should be taken as directed on the bottle. The ear drops should be used as directed. Pain is usually minimal and can be managed with tablets.
3. There are no dietary restrictions.

The Dressing:

The ear dressing will be removed by your surgeon the day after surgery, It is not unusual to have bloody drainage on the gauze. The cotton in the ear canal is to be removed and changed when wet. Initially this will be a few times a day and then will become daily or second daily as required. When the ear stops leaking blood leave the cotton wool out and avoid any water entering the ear canal. The incision behind the ear is covered by paper adhesive strips which should remain in place until your post operative appointment.

Precautions:

1. DO NOT blow your nose until such time that it has been indicated that your ear is healed. Any accumulated secretions in the nose may be drawn back into the throat and expectorated if desired. This is particularly important if you develop a cold.
2. DO NOT "pop" your ears by holding your nose and blowing air through the Eustachian tube into the ear. If it is necessary to sneeze, do so with your mouth open.
3. DO NOT allow any water to enter the ear until advised by your doctor that the ear is healed. Until such time, when showering or washing the ear, cotton may be placed in the outer ear opening and covered with Vaseline or Blutac may be used. If an incision was made in the skin behind your ear, water should be kept away from this area for 24hours and then it can be wet and patted dry.
4. DO NOT take any unnecessary chance of catching a cold. Avoid undue exposure or fatigue. Should you catch a cold, treat it in your usual way, reporting to us if you should develop ear symptoms.
5. You may anticipate a certain amount of pulsation, popping, clicking and other sounds in the ear, and also a feeling of fullness in the ear. Occasional sharp shooting pains are not unusual. At times, it may feel as if there is liquid in the ear.
6. DO NOT plan to drive a car home from the hospital. Air travel is permissible two days following surgery. When changing altitude, you should remain awake and chew gum to stimulate swallowing.
7. DO NOT perform any heavy lifting (more than 15kg) or vigorous physical activity for three weeks after surgery.

