

- If there are any external stitches these will be taken out at your GP's practice or in ENT clinic 5 to 7 days after surgery.
- Care must be taken when showering or washing hair not to get the ear or the above wound wet.
- Sometimes if you are well enough after your operation you may go home on the same day. Usually you will only need an overnight stay in hospital. If you go home the same day as the operation your head bandage will be taken off by a nurse or doctor in the ENT department the next day.
- You will need follow up in the ENT clinic between one and three weeks after your operation.
- You may get some short stabbing pain in your ear lasting for a few seconds. Take paracetamol every 4 to 6 hours to relieve any discomfort.
- You will need to take 10 days to two weeks off work.
- Do not drive for 48 hours after the operation. If you have no dizziness you should be able to resume driving after this.

Contact your GP if:

- You have persistent throbbing headaches which do not settle with Paracetamol
- The ear becomes very red, swollen or discharging.

All information in this leaflet has been verified for use by our Consultant ENT surgeons.

For further information please ask a member of staff or visit www.ent.uk

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk



Tympanoplasty

Ear, Nose and Throat Department

Clinic 6, Lincoln County Hospital 01522 573255
 Clayton Ward 01522 573130/573778
 Surgical Admissions Unit 01522 573089/573144
www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

This leaflet is aimed at patients undergoing a tympanoplasty. It aims to explain the procedure and what to expect afterwards.

What is a Tympanoplasty and why is it done?

A Tympanoplasty is an operation to close the hole (perforation) in your eardrum. This is performed to minimise the risk of infections in the affected ear. You will be able to swim and take showers without using earplugs. The operation is not done to improve your hearing, if it does improve, this is a bonus.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

Sometimes holes in the eardrum heal themselves. Drops or tablets will not make the hole close up.

How is the operation done?

There are various materials used to graft (patch) the eardrum.

1. A piece of tissue covering the muscle (fascia) from above your ear.
2. A piece of tissue covering the cartilage from your tragus (springy part near the entrance to the ear canal).
3. A piece of fat from your earlobe.

Your surgeon will decide which material will benefit you and give you the best chance of success.

The eardrum is lifted up and the graft is put underneath the eardrum and spread out to seal the hole. An absorbable material is used to secure the graft.

A dressing is then put into the ear passage soaked in antiseptic drops. This stays in the ear canal for one to three weeks whilst the graft and the eardrum are healing. Cotton wool and a head bandage hold the dressing in place.

Risks of Surgery?

- Tinnitus (ringing/buzzing) in ear
- Change in taste
- Dizziness
- Failure
- Loss of hearing rare (usually stays the same)
- Facial Nerve Weakness

What happens before the operation?

- You will see a nurse in the pre-assessment clinic who will review your health prior to surgery. You will need to give details of medications you are taking, asked a series of questions related to your health and will be sent for other tests as needed (blood tests, ECG, chest x-ray etc). Blood pressure, pulse, weight and height and urine will be tested.
- You will already have signed a consent form, but if there are any questions please ask.
- You will be asked to stop eating and drinking 6 hours before your surgery.
- You will be seen by an anaesthetist who will explain the anaesthetic you will be having. Usually you will have a needle put into the back of your hand through which the anaesthetic will be given.
- The surgeon will shave a small area behind your ear before surgery.

What happens after the operation?

- You will be conscious a minute or two after the operation ends, usually you will not remember this.
- You may have some discomfort in your ear especially when opening and closing your mouth or laying on the affected side. You will be given an injection or tablets to control the pain. Ask the nurse if you are not comfortable.
- You may have some dizziness for 24 hours, but this is not common.
- You may have some squelching, buzzing or popping noises in your ear. This is usually due to the dressing being there.
- You will be able to drink within an hour after the operation if you are not feeling sick. Within a few hours you will be eating normally.
- If a head bandage is used, this will be removed 1 to 2 days after your operation. The dressing in your ear must stay in place for 1 to 3 weeks. There may be bruising around the top of the ear.
- It is common to get a little discharge from the ear, this is watery and may be yellowish. It also may be a little blood stained which is nothing to worry about.