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## POST-OPERATIVE CARE INFORMATION FOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES

To the Patient/Guardian, \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Center Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### POST OP CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING TYMPANOPLASTY SURGERY:

A tympanoplasty is an operation to repair a defect in the eardrum of the hearing bones. Occasionally, a correction of complex ear problems may require more than one operation. The first procedure is directed at completely removing the infection or cholesteatoma. The second operation is required to be sure there is no recurrence of the original problems and to possibly reconstruct the hearing mechanism. Sometimes the surgery is done through an incision behind your ear. After healing, the incision is usually not obvious.

- 1) There is a large dressing on the ear after surgery. After this is removed, a clean cotton ball dressing might be required which can be changed when necessary or twice daily.
- 2) This surgery can be done as an outpatient in many cases. Those patients requiring hospitalization are usually able to be discharged on the first post-operative day.
- 3) The incision should be kept dry after surgery. Hair washing is permitted if care is taken to prevent water from touching this area such as at the sink.
- 4) Generally, the ear canal is packed with an absorbable material. Some of this might be removed at the first post-operative visit. Antibiotic ear drops are then often used to help dissolve the remainder of the packing.
- 5) It is important not to blow the nose, cough, or sneeze vigorously, or do any strenuous activity until your ear has fully healed. Please do not travel by airplane, scuba-dive, or swim until cleared by the doctor.
- 6) Some dizziness may be experienced during the immediate post-operative period. Therefore, driving should be avoided during this time.
- 7) Up to 2 to 6 months may be required for complete healing after a tympanoplasty. Hearing improvement may not be noticeable until this time.
- 8) A hearing test is performed pre-operatively and usually 1 to 3 months post-operatively.
- 9) Please call our office at any time if you have questions if problems develop.
- 10) Please do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications 1 week prior to or after surgery unless cleared by your doctor.