

Tubes Reduce Incidence of Youth Ear Infections

Occurring mostly in young children, most ear infections are easily treatable with antibiotics.

However, some become chronic and require the placement of ear tubes.

Some signs of infection are crying, pulling or scratching of the ears, hearing difficulty and speech development delay.

A middle ear infection is generally an inflammation of the middle ear—an air-filled cavity located behind the eardrum.

If surgery is considered the best option, then tympanostomy tubes are placed in the eardrum to serve as a release for fluids in the middle ear. A small incision is made in the eardrum and a small, spool-like plastic tube is placed in the eardrum. The surgery usually takes about 15-20 minutes and is performed with mask anesthesia.

Ear tubes dramatically reduce the amount of hearing loss and future infections. The tubes usually stay in for about three months to one year, and fall out on their own.

The surgery leaves minimal scarring, and the hole begins to immediately close once the tube has fallen out.

Recovery time for ear tube surgery is short and there are few complications.

Contact your primary care provider for more information.



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