

# ENT & Audiology Center of Southlake

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## **NOTICE TO PATIENTS** **WITH TYMPANOSTOMY TUBES**

Tympanostomy tubes (“tubes in the ears”) create a connection between the outer ear and the middle ear. That is their intended purpose.

Do not put any drops, over-the-counter medicines or painkillers, hydrogen peroxide, or anything else in your ears without the direction of a physician, especially while you have a patent/functioning tube in your eardrum. Such drops and over-the-counter medicines may hurt, cause injury or in some cases can do permanent damage to your hearing and the structures of the middle ear.

Please call the office if you develop ear problems postoperatively. Your physician will advise you on the best way to control ear pain and ear drainage. Some medicines that I prescribe may indicate that they are for ophthalmic (eye) use. We are aware that they are labeled as ophthalmic.

If you have “old” prescriptions for eardrops that were not fully used for the specific patient, please contact the office before beginning these drops in the event a new problem develops. It may be safe to try them, but the ear problems may not be the same as they were at the time of the original prescription, and the medicines are not all the same.

It is strongly advised to keep a regular follow up every six months (even when you are not experiencing problems with your ears), while the tubes are still in place. Please schedule these appointments, even if you are seeing your primary care physician or pediatrician.

Thank you,

Michael D. Bryan MD/ Amy K. Mettman MD

