

Your child should not have any pain with his or her PE tubes. Sometimes the eardrops that you are asked to use will cause pain. If this happens, stop the drops. It is not unusual for there to be a little bleeding from your child's ear(s) immediately after surgery. It is also not unusual for you to see some pus or fluid draining from your child's ear for the first few days. Fever is not usually seen after this surgery. If your child has a fever after surgery, it may mean that your child has a problem with an infection other than his or her ears.

It is important to keep your child's ears dry. When you return to the office, we will fit your child with a set of plugs to keep the water out when he or she is in the water. It is all right for your child to bathe, swim or otherwise be exposed to the water unless your doctor has specifically told you not to. Until you return to the office and get the plugs, place cotton balls in your child's ears when he or she is in the water.

Sometimes, an infection will occur more than a week after the PE tubes are placed. If this happens, you will see drainage from the ear, which will look like pus, or sometimes like bloody drainage. The bacteria that cause this infection are not usually sensitive to antibiotics taken by mouth. The antibiotic drops, which you were given at the time of surgery, will usually get rid of this infection. If you notice an infected drainage from your child's ear, use the antibiotic drops for a total of seven days. If after seven days there is still drainage from your child's ear, then you should bring your child in to our office for treatment.