

Useful Telephone Numbers

- Bluebell ward, Lister Hospital
Tel: 01438 284008
- Children's Emergency Department, Lister Hospital
Tel: 01438 284333
- Children's Day Services, Lister Hospital
Tel: 01438 286315
- ENT Department, Lister Hospital
Tel: 01438 314333, Ext. 5113 / 4118
- ENT Admission Office (waiting list)
Tel: 01438 286836 or 01438 286835
- ENT Nurse Specialist (Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 6pm)
Tel: 01438 314333, bleep 1028
Mobile: 07785 343359 or 07876 390290

Useful ENT website: www.entuk.org

In an Emergency:

Dial 999 and request an ambulance or attend the nearest A&E of the following hospitals unless away from home

- **Lister Hospital A&E (SG1 4AB) - 01438 784732**
- **New QEII Urgent Care Centre, Welwyn Garden City - 01707 247549**
- **Luton and Dunstable**
- **Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow**

**Lister Hospital
Coreys Mill Lane
Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4AB
Tel: 01438 314333**

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

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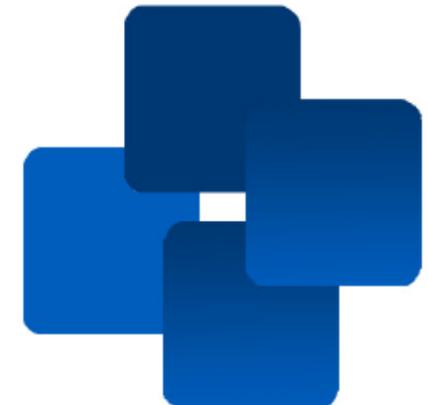
You can request this information in a different format or another language.

Patient Information

Myringoplasty

(Repair of hole in the eardrum)

Ear, Nose and Throat Department



Myringoplasty

A myringoplasty is an operation to patch a hole (perforation) in the eardrum (tympanic membrane).

Indications

An eardrum may need repairing if a hole persists following infection, trauma to the ear, or grommet insertion. There may be recurrent problems with middle ear infections (otitis media) and discharge from the ear. The operation is also performed for hearing loss in selected cases.

Procedure and anaesthetic

Depending on the size and position of the hole in the eardrum, the operation may be done through the ear canal, or sometimes through an incision (surgical cut) behind the ear.

A small graft or patch is taken from underneath the skin behind the ear, or from the gristle at the front of the ear canal. This graft covers the hole in the eardrum.

Your child will have a small scar where the graft is taken from. Often this is hidden by hair.

The operation takes about an hour and is performed under general anaesthetic (when the child is asleep).

After the operation your child will need time to wake up and will stay in the recovery area. Your child will be away from the ward for about an hour.

The surgeon may need to pack the ear canal with a dressing (antiseptic gauze). A head bandage is sometimes applied after surgery.

Risks and complications

A complication of this operation can be infection. In this situation your child may complain of earache and have runny, blood stained discharge coming from the ear. If this happens please contact the hospital to get some advice (we may need to see you in the clinic).

Occasionally your child may experience temporary dizziness, buzzing in their ear, or complain of a metallic taste in their mouth, as the taste nerve running through the ear can be stretched.

Rarely there can be bruising of the nerve that supplies the face, causing temporary, rarely permanent weakness of the face.

Time in hospital and time off school

This is a day case procedure. On the rare occasion your child feels dizzy after the operation, he/she might need to stay in the hospital overnight.

Your child will require 10-14 days off school.

Post-operative care and advice

This operation causes a moderate amount of discomfort. Most people find the pack in the ear becomes irritating after a week. Simple painkillers will normally be sufficient to alleviate any discomfort. Please give your child regular pain relieving medicines.

Your child has been given pain relief and can next have

Paracetamol at hrs

and/or

Ibuprofen athrs

Your child's ear may ooze or bleed a little for a day or two after the operation. This is normal and should stop within a few days. You may clean any discharge that you can see from the outer ear with moistened cotton wool or tissue. **Do not attempt to clean inside the ear at all.**

You will need to take care during hair washing, bathing and showering. It is advisable to put a ball of cotton wool coated with Vaseline into your child's outer ear at these times to keep the ear dry until seen in clinic. **Do not insert anything into the ear canal.**

Follow-up

A follow-up will be arranged in approximately six weeks to check the graft in the eardrum and to do a hearing test.

If your child has an ear pack, he/she will be seen in clinic after 7-10 days time for removal of the pack.

When to seek further medical advice

You should take your child to see a doctor if he/she experiences any of the following:

- Heavy bleeding or discharge from the ear(s).
- Severe pain that does not subside after giving pain relieving medication, such as Paracetamol or Ibuprofen.
- A fever that does not respond to Paracetamol.