Tympanoplasty

- Repair of a hole in the eardrum is the most common reason for surgery. It is also performed to repair the middle ear bones.

- May be done in children over the age of four.

- May be done under general or local in adults.

View Video of Tympanoplasty:
http://www.entusa.com/tympanoplasty_endaural-2.htm
Indications

- If a eardrum hole is present, it usually needs to be closed.

- May observe, if the hole is in the only or better hearing ear, there is extensive scarring or the patient is a poor surgical risk.

- Repeated ear infections may be an indication for earlier closure.
Eardrum Holes - Causes

Examples of Perforations Caused From Ear Tubes

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Preoperative Instructions

- It is very important not to take aspirin, aspirin products or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents within 10 days of the surgery.
Steps in the Operation
--Placement of Graft Video

- An incision is made behind ear to obtain a graft or to do the entire operation
- The ear canal is entered
- Tissue is removed along the margins of the perforation
- The ear canal skin and eardrum are elevated
- The graft is placed beneath the eardrum

View Video of Tympanoplasty: http://www.entusa.com/tympanoplasty_graft-3.htm
Steps in the Operation
--Placement of Gelfoam

- Gelfoam, an absorbable material, is then placed behind the graft to hold it in position.
- The eardrum and ear canal skin are laid back in position.
- Gelfoam is placed over the eardrum and canal skin.
- The ear is then packed.

Gelfoam is Inserted To Hold the Facial Graft in Position

View Video of Tympanoplasty: http://www.entusa.com/tympanoplasty_graft-3.htm
In the first 24 hours, it is normal to have some oozing of blood.

You may take the head dressing off the day after surgery, but leave the cloth-string packing in the ear canal. If a small amount comes out, gently replace it.

Apply triple antibiotic ointment to the wound, three times a day for one week.

You may get the stitches wet after 24 hours.
Care After The Operation
--The First 6 Weeks

- No water in ears.
- Do not blow your nose.
- Do not play wind instruments.
- If you sneeze, sneeze with your mouth open.
- Do not sky dive, swim, or ride in aircraft.
- **NO AIR PRESSURE CHANGES.**
How The Eardrum Will Look

Normal Eardrum

A Scarred Repaired Eardrum
Complications

- Injury or sacrifice of a small nerve which runs under the eardrum may cause the following in some patients:
  -- Mild numbness on the side of the tongue.
  -- Some loss of some taste on the side of the tongue.
Complications

- Loss of hearing.
- Failure of graft to take. This occurs in about 10% of the operations.
- Excessive scarring of the middle ear.
- Cholesteatoma or skin cyst of the middle ear.
- Ear or tongue numbness.
Results

- It may take up to 6 weeks for the hearing to improve. The body must first absorb the Gelfoam.

- If you had a significant hearing loss before the operation most patients will have an improvement in hearing.
The End