

**MICHIGAN OTOLARYNGOLOGY & FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY ASSOCIATES**

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**J. Martin Ulrich, D.O., F.O.C.O.O.**

**BOARD CERTIFIED**

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**Surgical Procedure: TYMPANOPLASTY**

Dr. Ulrich has determined that you have an abnormality in one of your ears which requires surgery. A tympanoplasty is an operation on the eardrum and the tiny sound-conducting bones of the ‘middle’ ear inside the head. The operation involves a surgical cut in the ear canal and possibly also behind the ear. Dr. Ulrich may also have to “build” a new eardrum. Complications from the operation are not common, but they do sometimes occur. It is possible that the operation will not help you, and it is even possible that you will be worse after the operation than you are now. Because of these facts, Dr. Ulrich can make no guarantee as to the result that might be obtained from this operation. However, in the vast majority of patients the result desired is achieved.

As with any operation, bleeding and infection are possible complications from this ear operation. These complications could result in prolonged illness, poor healing wounds, scarring, and the need for further operations. Very rarely, nerve damage occurs from tympanoplasty operations. This could result in weakness, pain, tingling and numbness over half the face and the inability to move the muscles of half the face. Nerve damage can also cause permanent loss of hearing and deafness. Growths and tumor formation in the ear are also rare complications which can follow this surgery. Dizziness, ringing in the ear, and other peculiar sensations in the ear are other uncommon complications of this surgery. Allergic or other bad reactions to one or more of the substances used in the operation may rarely occur.

Some of the complications of tympanoplasty operations can require further surgery; some of the complications can result in prolonged illness and deafness; and very, very rarely, some of the complications can even be fatal. Furthermore, there may be alternatives to this surgery available to you, such as the use of medications and delaying surgery. However, these alternative methods carry their own risk of complications and have a varying degree of success. Therefore, in those patients in whom tympanoplasty surgery is indicated, the operation may provide the patient with the best chance of successful treatment and the lowest risk of complications.

## What to expect after EAR SURGERY

### Activity & Diet

Gradually increase your diet as tolerated. Your body needs extra rest after surgery. Take it easy for the first week, then gradually return to normal activity. **DO NOT LIFT HEAVY OBJECTS OR DO STRENUOUS ACTIVITY FOR 2 WEEKS AFTER SURGERY. Do not travel outside the area for 2 weeks following surgery.**

### Pain & Temperature

Mild pain at the incision site is common for 2 to 3 days after surgery. If the doctor prescribed a pain medication, take it as directed. If no pain medication was prescribed, you may take Tylenol (Acetaminophen) as directed on the label. Do not take any aspirin, Motrin, or ibuprofen products since they may cause more bleeding. If pain becomes more severe, contact our office.

### Drainage

Draining in the ear canal is normal for 4-5 days after surgery. Drainage may be clear, pink or bloody. Drainage after 5 days may be a sign of infection. Other signs of infection are: a temperature higher than 100.5 F, pus in the incision, redness of the area, or severe throbbing pain that will not go away. If any of the above signs are present, contact our office immediately.

### General Care

\* Try to prevent water from entering the ear canal. During baths, showers, shampoos, and swimming your ears should be protected. Vaseline coated cotton balls or silicone ear putty can be inserted into the outer ear to block the canal. Do not swim for 2 months after surgery.

\* If a bandage was placed behind the ear after surgery, please keep it in place for one week after surgery. After this time, you may remove the bandage and wash the area with a mild soap and water. Pat dry, do not rub. A cotton ball will be placed in the ear at the time of surgery. Change the cotton ball as needed to keep the ear clean and dry. This cotton ball does not need to be sterile. There may be a feeling of fullness in the ear with popping sounds during the healing period. This is normal.

\* **DO NOT BLOW YOUR NOSE FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER SURGERY.** Blowing your nose will put too much pressure on the surgery site. If you must sneeze, keep your mouth open and sneeze through your mouth.

### Medication

Clean the incision area with a solution of ½ Hydrogen Peroxide and ½ water on a cotton swab 2 or 3 times a day. Apply an antibiotic ointment to the incision area after cleansing.

### Follow-up Appointment

A follow-up appointment has been made for you. Refer to your surgery letter for date and time. If this appointment needs to be changed, please contact our office.

### Questions or Problems

If questions or problems arise during normal business hours, please do not hesitate to call the office at (810) 695-3766. For post-surgical medical issues after normal business hours, call the office at (810) 695-3766 and follow the prompts to be connected with Dr. Ulrich. If unable to connect through the office, contact Genesys information at (810) 606-5000 to have Dr. Ulrich paged.