

Ear Surgery / Myringoplasty

Post Operative Instructions

- ▶ Arrange for transportation home from the hospital. You cannot drive for 24 hours after anaesthetic.
- ▶ For the first week there may be a slight ooze from the ear canal.
- ▶ The cottonwool ball in the ear canal can be discarded after 24 hours. If there is packing in the ear canal, it may become stuck to the cottonwool. If this happens, trim the cottonwool off with a pair of scissors. Insert a new ball of cottonwool daily until the discharge ceases.
- ▶ The sutures are usually dissolvable so do not need to be removed.
- ▶ The packing is usually removed from the ear canal after two weeks but do not expect an immediate improvement in your hearing. It will take as long as six weeks for the swelling to subside and the healing process to finish.
- ▶ **KEEP THE EAR DRY.** For the first month protect the ear when you wash your hair. A cottonwool ball placed in the ear and coated with Vaseline is usually sufficient. An ear infection following surgery will lower the chances of success dramatically.
- ▶ Mild painkillers are usually needed. Paracetamol (Panadol) or Paracetamol + Codeine (Panadeine) are usually sufficient. If you have increasing pain or discharge then contact Dr Kelly as this may mean an infection is developing.