

Patient information

Middle ear and mastoid operations

Your Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon has recommended that you have an operation on your middle ear or mastoid.

The hearing mechanisms consist of the eardrum, three small bones of the middle part and the nervous structures of the inner ear. Operations can be performed on these structures in order to repair perforations of the eardrum and also to replace the small bones that conduct the hearing impulses. On occasions, infection in the middle ear can spread to involve the mastoid bone behind the ear and an operation may be necessary to remove this infection.

You will be admitted to hospital for at least two to three nights. The surgeon may ask for some tests when you arrive.

Your operation will usually be performed under a general anaesthetic (you will be asleep). You may have some hair around your ear shaved as the surgeon usually makes a cut in the skin either behind or in front of the ear.

When you wake up you may have a bandage and also a dressing over the operated ear. You may be slightly dizzy because the balance mechanism in the inner ear can become disturbed. This dizziness will soon go away and medications can be given to relieve these symptoms.

You may experience some pain from your operation site—this can be relieved by taking painkillers such as paracetamol or similar medication as prescribed.

When you go home

You will have a dressing in the ear canal. You will return to the ENT Clinic Room attached to Ward F4 or Outpatient Department to have the dressing and stitches removed two weeks after the operation.

After care

When showering or bathing, please plug your ear with some cotton wool mixed with Vaseline.

If you require any further advice or information, please contact the ward on 01284 713430 or 01284 713290.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



© West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust