

MYRINGOPLASTY

Patient and Family Information

What is a myringoplasty?

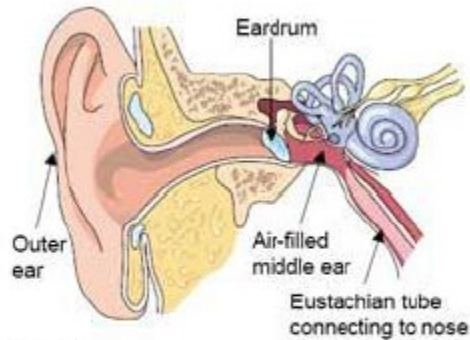


Figure 1

A hole in the eardrum can be repaired by a myringoplasty

Image Source: BMI Healthcare UK 2018

A myringoplasty is a surgery performed to repair a hole (perforation) in the ear drum (tympanic membrane).

Why do I need this surgery?

The main purpose of this surgery is to reduce the frequency of recurrent infections involving the middle ear space.

What does this surgery involve?

The surgery is performed under general anaesthesia.

There are two surgical methods to approach the mastoid bone: an endoscopic surgery (through the ear canal), or open surgery (through an incision which is usually behind the ear). Your doctor will advise on the appropriate method which is the most suitable for you. Occasionally, it may start as an endoscopic procedure but converted to an open surgery due to access difficulties.

Typically, the diseased area will be removed with a drill. If the disease involves the middle ear, the “hearing bones” may be removed during the surgery as well. This may or may not be appropriate to be reconstructed during the initial surgery.

If a tissue graft is required after the removal of the disease, the tissue may be harvested from under your skin. The location of where this tissue is harvested from depends on the surgical method. Subsequently, dressings are placed in the external ear canal which will block off the ear canal.

You may also have an external dressing and head bandage applied at the end of the operation.

What are the risks associated with this surgery?

There are potential complications associated with any surgery. This may pertain to the administration of general anaesthesia or the surgical procedure itself.

Some potential complications include:

- Pain
- Wound infection
- Dizziness
- Recurrence of the disease

- Hearing loss — There is a small risk of partial or total permanent hearing loss as a result of damage to the middle or inner ear.
- Ringing sound in ears (tinnitus)
- Change in taste — The nerve that transmit sensation of taste runs closely behind the ear drum and may be damaged.
- Facial weakness/paralysis — The nerve that controls movement on one side of the face runs in the middle ear and may rarely be damaged.
- Cerebrospinal fluid (brain fluid) leak

What are the alternative options?

Depending on your condition, there may be an option of conservative management with regular surveillance, ear cleaning, and antibiotics.

A conservative approach is not recommended if there are complications from the disease or if the disease is extensive.

What can I expect immediately after surgery?

If you have undergone an endoscopic surgery, you will be discharged on the same day.

If you have undergone an open surgery, you will be observed in the hospital overnight. There will be a pressure bandage applied around the head over the ear after the surgery which will be removed the next day.

After the surgery, it is important to keep the operated ear dry. There will be some sponge-like material packing in the ear which will be removed during an outpatient follow-up one week later.

Subsequent follow-up sessions will be arranged to check that the wound and tissues are healing well.

Post-operative care

- Do not dig the ears (e.g. using cotton buds)
- Do not touch the inner ear pack dressing as it should only be removed by the doctor during the scheduled appointment
- The outer cotton ball can be replaced if needed
- Do not strain or blow the nose forcefully
- No swimming, diving or airplane travel until the doctor advises to do so
- Refrain from using earphones

Should you have any pre or post operation queries, please call us at 6772 4551 or email us at ent_fc@nuhs.edu.sg.

For urgent medical attention, please walk into the clinic during operating hours (Monday to Friday, between 8.30am to 5.30pm) or visit the Emergency Department after clinic hours.

Reference:

- BMI Healthcare:
<https://www.bmihealthcare.co.uk/treatments/ent-surgery/myringoplasty>

National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074

OneNUHS Hotline: (65) 6908 2222

OneNUHS General Enquiries: contactus@nuhs.edu.sg

OneNUHS Appointments: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

www.nuh.com.sg

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment, or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.

© 2026, National University Hospital (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or shared without prior permission from National University Hospital (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.