

Aftercare following grommet insertion

Information for families

Your child has had a hearing check following insertion of grommets. The hearing is satisfactory and the grommets are working. Your child will now be discharged and further hearing assessment appointments will not be routinely arranged.

Grommets usually remain in place for 6-12 months but for some individuals they last for a shorter or longer time. They then usually fall out the eardrums spontaneously. The grommets often remain in the ear canal for some time without any adverse effects, but will eventually fall out. Generally they do not need to be removed from the ear canal.

For most children, their hearing remains satisfactory even after the grommets have fallen out. Most children "grow out" of glue ear as they get older (7-10 years old). As they grow, their middle ear space is less likely to become congested.

Sometimes children develop ear infections after they have had grommets inserted. This can result in a creamy yellow discharge in the ear canal (this is different from wax which is usually an orange/brown colour). The ear infection is not usually painful but the discharge may have an unpleasant odour. If your child develops a discharging ear please arrange for them to see your General Practitioner (GP) /Practice Nurse who can prescribe antibiotic ear drops.

Discharge usually clears up in 3-5 days.

Service provided by

Very occasionally a child may experience recurrent ear discharge. If this happens your GP may refer them to an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) consultant for advice.

Occasionally a child's hearing may deteriorate after the grommets have fallen out. If you think that your child's hearing has been poor for longer than one month it may be appropriate for him/ her to have another hearing check. Please ask your GP to check their ears and consider referring them to Children's Audiology for a further hearing assessment if necessary.

For further Information, please contact the Children's Community Audiology Service:

T: 01225 394536

E: vcl.bathneswiltschildrensaudiology@nhs.net

W: www.wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk/audiology