

Myringoplasty

What is a myringoplasty?

It is an operation to repair a perforated eardrum.

Why do I need this operation?

This operation may be done to:

- dry up your ear and stop it discharging
- allow you to swim and get your ear wet
- allow you to wear a hearing aid, should you need one.

This operation is NOT done to improve your hearing and is unlikely to make it any better.

What does the operation involve?

The operation takes about 45 minutes and is performed under a general anaesthetic.

The surgeon will make a small cut in the front of your ear and down into your ear canal. From inside this cut a small piece of tissue is taken and then put over the hole in the eardrum, like a patch or graft.

When you wake up you will have some packing in your ear, which will stay in for two weeks. This helps the patch stay in place and heal. While the pack is in, your ear may discharge a little. This is normal and will settle down once it is removed.

You may need up to two weeks off work. You should not fly for up to three months after your surgery, and only then if your surgeon says it is safe to do so.

This is because the pressure changes in an aeroplane can dislodge the graft.

What are the possible risks of surgery?

- pain
- bleeding
- infection
- failure of the graft to take (one in every five myringoplasties will fail)
- a metallic taste in your mouth, due to bruising of a nerve. Most, but not all, resolve in two to three weeks
- reduction in your hearing.

What is the prognosis or expected outcome?

If your operation is successful you should not need any further treatment. If your graft fails then the hole in your eardrum will still be there. If necessary the operation can be repeated, but again there is no guarantee of success.

If you have any queries please contact Wheal Coates ward on: 01872 253830

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