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#### POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR OSSICULAR RECONSTRUCTION

1. There will be a cotton ball in your ear. It may become saturated with blood. If it does, replace it. If it is dry, you may leave it out.
  2. Your ear canal will be full of packing material. Please leave the packing alone. Little pieces may stick to the cotton ball – that is fine, but do not pull out any of the packing.
  3. Three weeks after surgery you will begin to put drops in your ear, onto the packing. Four drops are applied twice a day.
  4. As you start apply the drops the packing will begin to come out. It may come out sooner than three weeks, which is ok. As it comes out it may look like an infection, but it isn't.
  5. You will see the surgeon 5-6 weeks after surgery.
  6. The incision behind your ear, if there is one, is waterproof.
  7. You may shower 24 hours after surgery. Do your best to not let the shower spray directly into the ear. Try to keep water out of the ear as much as possible. A cotton ball in the ear, or a cotton ball with a small amount of Vaseline on it, may help keep the water out. But if you are careful, no cotton ball is required.
  8. Do not blow your nose until you have seen the surgeon and he tells you is OK. If you have to sneeze, let it out. Do not trap it.
  9. No lifting greater than 20 pounds.
  10. Take Motrin (Ibuprofen or Advil) for pain control. You may require the prescription pain medications for the first few nights following surgery.
  11. You may return to work in 3-7 days.
  12. You may fly 48 hours after surgery.
  13. Call our office if: you notice significant swelling behind the ear, the ear or the area behind the ear is red or hot to the touch, you have a fever greater than 101.5°, the pain is not controlled, you have facial drooping/weakness, you have vertigo.
  14. Feel free to call the office during business hours for any questions.
  15. For afterhours emergencies, please call Dr. Crawford's cell: 208-440-6267. Leave a message if he does not answer and he'll call you back.
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