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#### POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAPEDOTOMY

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 ointment. It will melt and drain out over the course of 4-5 days. The cotton ball may be left in place until the ointment is cleared.
  3. One week after surgery you will begin to put drops in your ear. Four drops are applied twice a day. Use the drops for one week.
  4. You will see the surgeon 5-6 weeks after surgery.
  5. 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.
  6. 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.
  7. No lifting greater than 15 pounds.
  8. Take Motrin (Ibuprofen or Advil) for pain control. You may require the prescription pain medications for the first few nights following surgery.
  9. You may return to work in 3-7 days.
  10. You may fly 48 hours after surgery.
  11. 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.
  12. Feel free to call the office during business hours for any questions.
  13. 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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