

## ENT01lite Grommet Insertion (Child)

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at Joondalup Health Campus for a copy.

**Write questions or notes here:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**HEALTH CONSUMERS'  
COUNCIL**  
YOUR VOICE ON HEALTH

This document will give you information about a grommet insertion. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

### What is glue ear?

Glue ear is a common condition where fluid collects in the middle ear behind the eardrum (see figure 1). It can cause deafness and repeated earache or infections, sometimes resulting in a discharge from the ear.

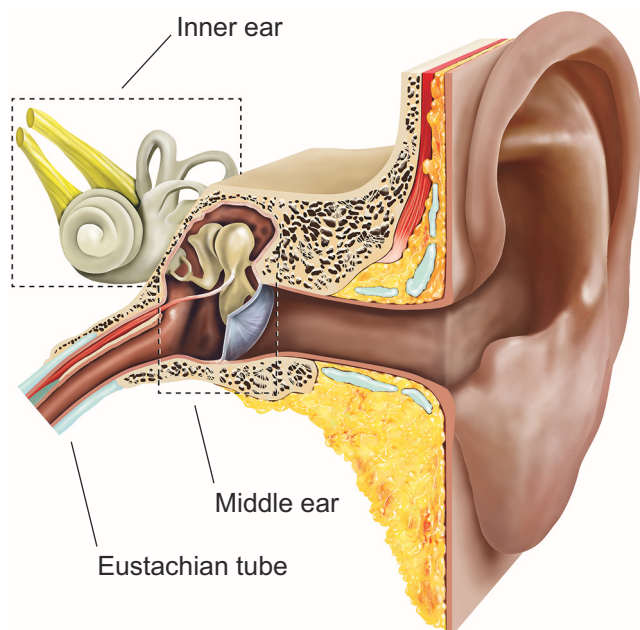


Figure 1  
Blocking of the eustachian tube causes glue ear

### What are the benefits of surgery?

A grommet (small plastic or metal tube) allows air to enter the middle ear, preventing fluid build-up.

### Are there any alternatives to surgery?

The condition almost always gets better but it is not possible to say when this will happen. Surgery is recommended if the glue ear continues for longer than three months and is causing problems with poor hearing, slow speech development, repeated ear infections, slow school progress or behavioural problems.

### What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about 20 minutes. Your surgeon will make a small hole in the eardrum and remove the fluid by suction. This is called a myringotomy. They will place a plastic or metal grommet in the hole.

## What complications can happen?

### 1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding

### 2 Specific complications

- Fluid leaking from the ear
- Ear discharge
- Small hole left in the eardrum after the grommet falls out
- Repeated build-up of fluid in the middle ear

### How soon will my child recover?

Your child should be able to go home the same day.

Other than swimming, your child should be able to return to normal activities after one to two days. The grommet will fall out of your child's ear by itself, after 6 to 18 months, depending on the material and design of the grommet.

### Summary

Glue ear is a common condition that usually gets better without any surgery. Surgery is recommended when the condition lasts longer than three months and the hearing loss is causing problems with speech or schooling.

### Acknowledgements

Author: Miss Ruth Capper MD FRCS (ORL-HNS)  
Illustrations: Medical Illustration Copyright ©  
Medical-Artist.com

**This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.**