

Caring for Your Child After Nasal Cautery

Electrical nasal cautery closes off a blood vessel in the nose to relieve the problem of nosebleeds. It is a short procedure done under general anesthesia.

What to Expect

Your child may have nausea from the anesthesia.

Diet

Start with clear liquids and slowly move to solid foods. If your child still has nausea, start over with clear liquids and slowly advance.

Pain

If they have pain, give acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen as needed.

Wound Care

- Apply antibiotic ointment to the inside of the nose with a cotton swab at bedtime for two weeks. **Do not** insert further than the cotton on the stick.
- Only use nasal saline spray if your doctor tells you to.
- No nose picking. If your child picks their nose when sleeping, have them wear socks on their hands while in bed.

Activity

- Your child can take part in normal activity, as they are able. If your child is in daycare or school, they may return the day after the procedure.
- **Do not** blow the nose for 1 week. Wipe the nose with a tissue rather than blowing it.

Follow Up

Your doctor will let you know if you need to come back for a return visit.

When to Call

- They have frequent nausea or vomiting.
- A fever over 102°F
- If they get a nosebleed. While calling, have someone pinch the nostrils (the fleshy part of the nose) without letting up on the pressure for 10 minutes.
- You have any other questions or concerns

Who to Call

Pediatric Otolaryngology (ENT) Clinic
Weekdays, 8:30 to 4:30 pm
(608) 263-6420, option 3

After clinic hours and weekends the above number will give you the paging operator. Ask for the ENT doctor on call. Leave your name, area code, and phone number. The doctor will call you back shortly.

The toll-free number is **1-800-323-8942**.