

Presenter: A bunch⁽¹⁾ of children in Dunedin have been getting some special treatment and thanks to the generosity of staff at a private hospital, they're set to enjoy a painfree Christmas. Megan Martin explains.

Martin: It's a very special day for 18-month-old James Chalana. After constant ear infections and nine courses of antibiotics, he's finally getting grommets⁽²⁾.

Sylvia Bell (James's mother): Very excited about it. Actually, I think it will make him a happier boy, and it's good to have it before Christmas.

Martin: What's more, James along with 29 other children got their grommet operations for free. That's a third of the Dunedin waiting list.

Dr Martyn Fields: The waiting time at the hospital has got worse, and that's partly for the norovirus and partly because there are staff shortages⁽³⁾.

Martin: A team of seven medical staff have volunteered their time and Mercy Hospital donated the facilities.

Sister Lucia Hartstonge: The staff are the guardian angels, which is rather wonderful, isn't it?

Martin: Which makes one of the surgeons who thought out this plan Santa?

Dr Fields: I'd need the hair and the beard for that.

Martin: This tiny Teflon® tube is what makes all the difference. It can take as little as eight minutes to insert and yet it can stop ear infections, partial deafness, burst⁽⁴⁾ eardrums⁽⁵⁾ and the resulting learning difficulties.

Without today's operations, families would have been looking at a painful Christmas, and about a six-month wait.

Lisa Byers: More antibiotics, more sleepless nights, more ear infections, colds, you know, just general unwellness⁽⁶⁾.

Martin: For James, hopefully it means no more earache and plenty of icecream. For his folks, it's a Yule time⁽⁷⁾ wish come true.

Sylvia Bell: It's a Christmas present. It's a Christmas present.

Martin: Megan Martin, Onenews.

Lexical helpline:

1. **a bunch of:** a group of
2. **a grommet:** a tympanostomy tube, a small tube inserted into the eardrum in order to keep the middle ear aerated for a prolonged period of time.
3. **a shortage:** a lack
4. **burst:** ruptured
5. **the eardrum:** the tympanic membrane
6. **unwellness:** illness
7. **Yule time:** the Christmas season

Translation:

1. Le diabolo est utilisé dans le traitement des otites moyennes aiguës.
2. L'hôpital a prêté ses équipements pour une opération humanitaire.
3. Un tympan percé peut entraîner la surdité du patient.
4. Le personnel hospitalier s'est porté volontaire pour pratiquer cette opération avant les fêtes de fin d'année.

1. The grommet is used in the treatment of middle ear infections/otitis media.
2. The hospital has lent its facilities for a charity operation.
3. A burst eardrum can lead to the patient's deafness.
4. The hospital staff have volunteered to carry out/perform this operation/procedure before the Christmas season/Yuletide.