

**Abstracts – MEMRO 2006, Zurich July 27–30, 2006**

**4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Middle Ear Mechanics in Research and Otology**

**6.4**

**Tympanic membrane blunting: prevention and treatment**

*TL. Eby, Birmingham; USA*

Anterior tympanic membrane blunting results in persistent conductive hearing loss and patient dissatisfaction despite successful closure of a perforation. Tympanic membrane compliance and efficiency in sound transmission is impaired. In extreme cases the entire tympanic membrane may lateralize giving a false fundus with maximal conductive loss. The causes of blunting may be both surgical technique and poor wound healing. We describe our techniques for prevention of blunting which include adequate support and anchoring of the fascial graft in an underlay technique and the use of thin split thickness skin grafts. Post operative follow up in clinic to monitor healing is important. Examples of the techniques and results are presented.