

# Otoplasty



Otoplasty (ear surgery) is performed to improve the shape, position or proportion of the ear. It can correct a defect in the ear structure that was caused due to an injury, that is present at birth, or that becomes present with development. Ear surgery creates a natural ear shape while bringing balance and proportion to the ears and face, and can have profound benefits to appearance and self-esteem.

Plastic surgery of the ear is commonly performed to correct the position of ears that protrude from the sides of the head. Such protrusion makes the ears appear to be larger than normal. Protruding ears may occur on one or both sides in varying degrees. Treatment of protruding ears is possible as early as 5 years old.

**PROCEDURE:** Repositioning protruding ears is one of the most common forms of ear surgery performed. In some cases, surgery is performed on both ears to achieve a more balanced result, even when one ear may protrude more than the opposing side. Ear surgery offers immediate results in cases of protruding ears that are visible once the bandages are removed. Surgical scars are hidden behind the ear, or within the natural creases of the ear.

**RECOVERY:** Following surgery, bandages will be applied to keep the surgical site clean, to support the new position of the ear during initial healing, and to also protect it from trauma. Strenuous activity should be avoided for two weeks following the procedure. A soft headband will be worn day and night for two weeks, and then just at night for several more weeks to protect the ear.

**COMPLICATIONS:** Although ear plastic surgery is known to be one of the safest plastic surgery procedures, there is always some risk involved with surgery. Some risks include swelling, bruising, bleeding, infection, scarring, asymmetry, numbness and hematomas.



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