# Ear Correction

(Otoplasty or Pinnaplasty)



### EXPERTS IN COSMETIC SURGERY

## EXCELLENCE | QUALITY | SAFE CARE



#### WHAT IT IS?

The aim of ear correction surgery is to improve the contour and shape of the ear. Ears that stick out can be a source of embarrassment and selfconsciousness for children and adults alike and make them easy targets for teasing, jokes and nicknames. This is why often the sooner in life it is carried out, the better.

When an ear is noticeably prominent in babies a few weeks old, it is possible to reshape the ear solely by applying a small splint to the rim, as the cartilage is very easily moulded at this stage. The older the child, the more stiff the cartilage becomes, and after six months it is too hard to be remoulded without surgery.

Otoplasty or Pinnaplasty is an operation which adjusts the shape of the cartilage within the ear to create the missing folds and allows the ear to lie flatter against the side of the head. The procedure offers dramatic, immediate results and will be permanent.

#### WHAT DOES THE PROCEDURE INVOLVE?

The procedure can be performed under local anaesthetic, though on young children a general anaesthetic is usually required. A small incision is made behind the ear, following the groove between the ear and the side of the head. If the earlobe is especially large, this may also be reduced.

A small dressing is applied after surgery and this is kept on until the stitches are removed, usually 7-10 days after surgery.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND LIKELY AFTER-EFFECTS?

Any procedure carried out under general anaesthetic carries a very small risk. In a small number of patients (approximately 3%) scars can become thick and red, and may require further treatment. Infection is not common, but if it does occur can be treated effectively with antibiotics and regular dressing changes. Sometimes the dressing can chafe the ears to produce a break in the skin, which can take a long time to heal. The ears are often numb after the operation, and this normally takes several weeks to settle.

Before



After











#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE OPERATION?

#### Post-Op

Your surgeon will see you when you have come round from the anaesthetic to check that all is well, and will discharge you providing you are fit to return home. You will be given medication and full post-operative instructions along with appropriate telephone numbers in case you need to contact us at any time.

#### Week 1 - 2

You will see the nurse after 7-10 days so that she can check your progress and remove your dressing and stitches. After this, you can wash your hair normally. We recommend that a protective headband is worn when sleeping to avoid the ears being bent forward against the pillow.

#### Weeks 8 - 10

Your surgeon will see you again, usually 8-10 weeks after the procedure for a full post-operative consultation.

#### **FULL POST-OPERATIVE COVER**

We're confident that you will be delighted with the results. For that reason, we guarantee that we will provide post-operative cover for a full three years after your procedure. It's our way of ensuring that you have peace of mind and confidence in Linia.

#### PERIOD OF REFLECTION

Cosmetic surgery is a purely elective procedure and careful consideration should be given to both the potential benefits and the risks, before making a decision to proceed. Linia recommends that, following consultation with your surgeon, you allow a period of at least fourteen days before making a decision.

General matters pertaining to cosmetic surgery.

- 1. Expectations and limitations: Cosmetic surgery may satisfy many needs and often provides inner confidence. It may enhance your quality of life significantly. It is however, not the answer to all of life's problems. It is vital to understand the limitation of such surgery. The purpose of cosmetic surgery is to improve one's appearance. But do not expect miracles. Most patients understand these limitations and have a realistic view of what may be achieved. Wrong expectations and over expectations may lead to disappointment. Being realistic brings satisfaction.
- **2. General risks of Surgery and Anaesthesia** such as blood clots, chest complications, pain and discomfort, infection, swelling, bruising, bleeding and haematoma, seroma, problems in the healing process, numbness, sensitivity etc.
- **3. Subjective Nature of Cosmetic Surgery:** It has been emphasised that, the final assessment of the result is a matter of subjective opinion. Hence, while a probable expected result has been advised, this is in no way a guarantee of a good result.
- **4. Scars:** All surgery involves creating some scars. Although these are placed in locations to hide, any scar, in theory, can become prominent. It normally takes 12-24 months for scars to fade away completely.
- **5. Time lag for final results:** Every operation is followed by a period of healing, before tissues return to normal and the final result is apparent.
- **6. Numbness:** Loss of sensitivity is a consequence of all surgery and it takes time for normal sensation to return.
- **7. Revisions and Refinements:** Every operation may sometimes need more refinement to achieve a satisfactory end result.
- **8. General Asymmetry:** Every human body is asymmetrical between left and right sides. This normal difference will persist after the surgery.

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