



CENTER FOR  
AESTHETICS  
— AND —  
PLASTIC SURGERY

## FAQ's about Ear Surgery/Otoplasty

**What is ear surgery?** Ear surgery or otoplasty decreases the projection of the ear and the angle of the ear in relation to the head, and also improves the shape of the ear. Ear surgery can also improve structural deformities that result in a misshapen or absent ear. Typically an incision is made in the back portion of the ear, to either reshape or reduce the cartilage, and reposition the “Y” shaped folds of the ear.

**Why might ear surgery be recommended for me?** The appearance of the ears in relation to your overall facial appearance, projection off the head and proportions may have a dramatic effect on self-esteem. Improving facial harmony through ear surgery often has a very positive effect on the self-confidence of children and adults.

**Who is a candidate for ear surgery?** Children generally aged 5-12 with very prominent ears, or older adolescents who are able to articulate their desire for the procedure and to follow instructions, and women and men of many ages and circumstances undergo ear surgery. These factors generally define good candidates for ear surgery procedures:

- You can clearly define why you want the surgery
- You understand what ear surgery procedure can and cannot accomplish
- You and your guardian accept the potential risks of ear surgery procedure and your responsibilities as a patient
- You are healthy, emotionally secure and you're stable
- You accept that you will need to make healthy lifestyle choices to maintain the results achieved by ear surgery
- You have realistic expectations and are willing to accept minor asymmetries

## What should I know about ear surgery?

- Ear surgery is generally performed on an out-patient basis
- Scars are a normal outcome of surgery. The location and pattern of your incisions and the resulting scars will be discussed during your consultation
- Ear surgery is performed under general anesthesia and occasionally under local with sedation in adults
- Recovery ranges from 7-10 days, although you will return to light, normal daily activity immediately following surgery
- Results are long-lasting, proper skincare is essential after surgery
- You will need a capable adult with you for 24 hours after your release from surgery
- All surgeries carry the potential for risks which will be fully discussed with you during your consultation

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