

## Otoplasty

Otoplasty is the name of the procedure where ears are pinned back and/or reshaped

Otoplasty is one of the most popular procedures in cosmetic surgery.

If you consider having this surgery, you need to know a few things about it.

### 1) What happens during the initial consultation?

- You will meet your surgeon and will tell him exactly what you want, why you want it (hair style etc..) and for how long.
- You will be asked to give information about your previous operations (cosmetic and non cosmetic), your health condition, your current medications, your allergies to medications, if you are a smoker or not, if you had an ear problem (infection) in the past

- Your surgeon will examine your ear and will take some measurements.

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- Then, the whole operation will be explained to you in details, including:

- the type of anesthesia (local, sedation or general)

- the incisions (length, position (behind ear), the work on the cartilages, the use of inside stitches), and outcome)

- the type of sutures used, the type of dressing, the head band that you will need to have on for 3 weeks

The operation generally takes an hour and is performed as a daycase

### 2) What happens when you decide to go ahead with your surgery?

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You will have a second consultation where everything is explained again.

Then, you call the office and we book the hospital for you.

You might need to do a blood test( usually in a private lab),mostly to check your red and white cells and your coagulation

Before the operation, you are not supposed to take aspirin or similar tablets.

If the operation is carried out under general or sedation,you will have to stop eating, drinking and smoking 6 hours before the operation and take a good shower the night before and the day of the operation (possibly with betadine scrub)

You will see your surgeon before going to theater and have time to ask him any question you forgot to ask before.

He will ask you to sign a consent form, where all the possible risks are mentioned. He will then do some markings on your skin and take some before photographs (they will stay in your file and are totally confidential)

-Then, you will meet the anesthetist and you will be taken to theater.

Your operation takes about one hour. You will spend half an hour in recovery, before being taken back to your room.

You will be discharged few hours later.

### 3)What can I expect from this operation ?

Generally, the whole ears need to be pinned back but ,in a natural way.Overdoing is not recommended at all

Sometimes, it is only one ear job, and sometimes, it also involves an excessive length of the whole ear or part of it (ear lobe for instance)

## 4)What happens after the surgery?

- Back home you are supposed to take it easy: no sport, no heavy lifting for 3 weeks
- You cannot wet your ears for one week,you need to keep the scar dry and clean, and you need to wear your head band on (3 weeks)
- You will feel uncomfortable, but not sore
- You will be told to take some antibiotics for one week, and pain killers ,only if needed
- You are supposed to come back to the clinic after two weeks for stitches trimming and wound check office anytime in between. After this first post operative check up, you will see your surgeon, one month ,3 months and 6 months after the surgery.

The initial swelling will disappear within 3 weeks.

## 5)What are the risks of this operation?

Apart from the usual side effects (pain(3-5 days), swelling,numbness(3 weeks ), there are some potential risks ,which are still very rare:

-scars: these scars can be red for several months and they should settle down:  
Exceptionnally , you can end up with a cheloid scar if you are prone to it

-bleeding: you will have to go back to surgery to have it stopped.

-bruising

-infection (this is why you have the antibiotics)(there is always a risk of infection after any

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type of surgery)

-wound opening (only if there is an infection)

-asymmetry ( it is rare to have 100% symmetry)

-Recurrence of the problem:can happens when a stitch gets loose inside.It is easily fixed ,under local anesthetic, by putting a new stitch in

-numbness of the ears

Again all these risks of complications are rare, but remember that surgery is not an exact science and there is no magic in surgery.

If there is a complication that requires surgery, the patient has to pay for hospital and anesthetist fees, and sometimes ,for surgeon fees

**Would you have more questions, do not hesitate to ask your surgeon,who will be always pleased to see you again during a second consultation**