

Further information can be obtained from:

NHS 111	Dial111
Or contact your GP	
Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 284008
Children's Day Services	01438 286315
Children's Emergency Department, Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 284333
Patient Advice and Liaison Service	01438 285811

References

The information in this leaflet was taken from Great Ormond Street Hospital, www.nhs.uk, www.patient.co.uk

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

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Prominent Ear Surgery under General Anaesthetic

Child Health Patient Information Leaflet



Introduction

Ear reshaping is a type of cosmetic surgery used to treat protruding ears. The operation is also known as **Otoplasty** or **Pinnaplasty** where the cartilage is remodelled into a less protruding shape.

The procedure is considered safe and most people are happy with the result. However, as with all types of surgery, there are some risks to consider.

Risks

- Infection where the cut was made.
- Inflammation of the ear cartilage.
- A blood clot - this may form in the skin of the ear and your surgeon may need to remove it.
- Scarring behind the ears.
- Problem with stitches.
- Mild bruising around the ear. This may last for up to two weeks after surgery.
- Numbness over the ears. This can last for up to two weeks after surgery.
- Stiff ears - this can last for several weeks or sometimes, a few months.

- Recurrence - in some cases the ears continue to protrude.
- Unsatisfactory appearance.

After the Operation

After the operation a bandage will be wrapped around your child's head to protect their ears and the surrounding area from infection.

Do not worry if your child feels sick or vomits once or twice after leaving hospital. The anaesthetic can cause this and it is not an uncommon side effect.

If this occurs stop giving food for about an hour and try small amounts of water or diluted juice every 20 minutes then a light diet such as plain biscuits or toast. If your child continues to vomit please call for advice or attend your nearest A&E.

The bandage may need to be kept in place for up to a week after the operation. Please try to keep it clean and dry. During this time you must not wash your child's hair. You will be able to wash your child's hair after the bandage has been removed, but avoid getting the affected area wet.

Some surgeons recommend wearing a head band at night for several weeks to protect the ears while sleeping. Your child might find it difficult to find a comfortable sleeping position initially. They may need extra pillows to sleep in a more upright position for a few days.

During the first few days following surgery, your child's ears may be sore and tender, feel numb and there may be a slight tingling sensation for a few weeks.

Mild to moderate pain and discomfort can be treated with painkillers, such as Paracetamol and/or Ibuprofen which are available over the counter from pharmacies. Always read the label.

If your child is having severe pain please contact your local Accident and Emergency Department on 01438 284333.

Returning to School

Most children can return to school around one to two weeks after an otoplasty/pinnaplasty. To prevent injuring their ears, your child should avoid contact sports and playground games that involve physical contact for three months. No swimming for at least 8 weeks.

A follow up appointment will be arranged for you prior to discharge from hospital.

Please contact your GP or Emergency department if:

- Your child is in a lot of pain and regular pain medicine is not helping.
- Your child has a temperature above 38°C.
- The operation site is red, hotter than the surrounding skin, oozing pus or bleeding.