

Useful Telephone Numbers

- ENT Department, Lister Hospital
☎ 01438 314333, Ext. 5113 / 4118
- Bluebell Children's Ward, Lister Hospital
☎ 01438 284008 or 01438 285091
- Day Surgery Unit, Lister Hospital
☎ 01438 285775 or 01438 285776
- ENT Nurse Specialist (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm)
☎ 01438 314333, bleep 1028
Mobile: 0778 534 3359 or 0787 639 0290
- ENT Admission Office (waiting list)
☎ 01438 286836 or 01438 286835

In an emergency, dial 999 and request an ambulance or attend your nearest Emergency Department.

NHS 111 can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you're not sure what to do. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

☎ 111

Useful ENT website: www.entuk.org

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

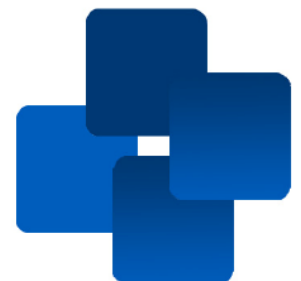
You can request this information in a different format or another language.

Patient Information

Pinnaplasty

(To correct the shape of the ears)
(Children)

Ears, Nose and Throat Department



What is a pinnaplasty?

A pinnaplasty is an operation that corrects the shape of the ears.

Children with protruding ears may experience being teased at school as well as having low confidence or self esteem. Ears stick out because of a defect of the cartilage of one or both ears.

Children four years and above can have this surgery. Before the age of four, the cartilage of the ears is weak and not yet fully developed.

Why have a pinnaplasty?

The ears are less likely to stick out after a pinnaplasty. This surgery has a good outcome.

Procedure and anaesthetic

This operation is performed under general anaesthetic (when the child is asleep).

An incision (cut) is made behind the ear. This exposes the cartilage which is then reconstructed. Often dissolvable stitches are used to close the skin but sometimes your child will need to have stitches removed a week after surgery. A head bandage is left in place to help the ears heal in their new position. Surgery takes about an hour.

Risks and complications

- **Haematoma** - The pinna (ear) may be swollen and painful needing urgent attention. A haematoma is a collection of blood which may need to be drained by opening up the stitches.
- **Infection** - If the cartilage or skin becomes infected, antibiotics may be necessary. This is called perichondritis.
- **Deformity** of the cartilage due to trauma, a surgical wound infection, inflammation or scar tissue.
- **Asymmetry** - occasionally, there may be residual deformity of the ears or some minor asymmetry between the two sides.

Does it hurt?

The ears may be uncomfortable. It is advisable to take painkillers to relieve pain/discomfort. The head bandage can cause discomfort.

Time in hospital

The operation is usually conducted as a day case but sometimes a child may stay overnight.

Time off school

One week off school is advised.

When can hair be washed or go swimming/fly?

- You can usually wash hair after two weeks by using a shower attachment and keep the area behind the ears clean and dry.
- The incision takes 2 weeks to be fully healed.
- It is best to wait 4-6 weeks before swimming to ensure that everything has healed properly.
- You can fly after having been reviewed in the clinic.

Post-operative care and advice

- Sutures (stitches) may be either removable or dissolvable. The surgeon will advise you which have been used and if they need to be removed.
- A head bandage is usually applied for 48 hours up to a week.

Follow-up appointment

Your child will be reviewed usually in the outpatient department one week after surgery.

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

There may be non-surgical options for treatment depending on your child's diagnosis. You should discuss this with the consultant.