

OTOPLASTY

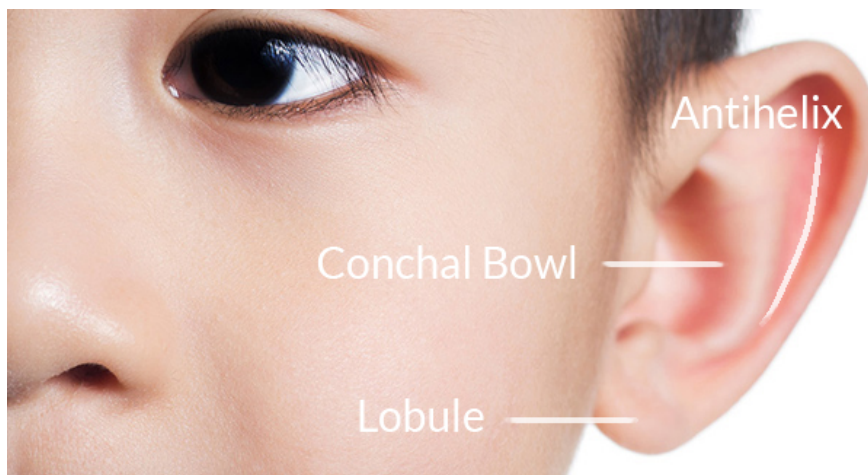
The aim of an otoplasty is to bring about symmetry of the face.

Ears are almost fully grown by the age of four so this procedure can be considered any time after the age of four.

Often adults have lingering concerns stemming back to younger years and decide to make a change later in life.

The classical deformity of protruding ears relates to the folds of the ear and most commonly involves the anti-helical fold.

The second feature is the deepness of the conchal bowl which is the cup portion of the ear. The third feature which may require correction is the ear lobe.



PROCEDURE

- Surgery can be undertaken with a general anaesthetic or a local anaesthetic with sedation dependent on age.
- Surgery is a day stay procedure
- Head bandage is worn for 24 - 48 hours
- Recovery period is approximately 7 days
- Procedure: An incision is made behind the ear and through this; the cartilage of the ear is sculpted into a new shape mostly using permanent sutures. The incision line behind the ear fades into an imperceptible line with time.
- The sensation of the ear is always altered immediately after surgery but returns to normal over a period of weeks to months.
- Infection of the stitches maintaining the new shape of the ear is also very rare but can occur.

Perfect symmetry is almost impossible to obtain as this is not a natural occurrence even in people with "normal" ears. In a very small minority of cases, revision surgery is necessary. More natural appearing ears is the goal of surgery.