

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Otoplasty is a surgical process to reshape the ear. A variety of different techniques and approaches may be used to reshape congenital prominence in the ears or to restore damaged ears. Each individual seeking otoplasty is unique, both in terms of the appearance of their ears and the expectations for results following otoplasty surgery. It is important that you fully discuss your expectations with your plastic surgeon prior to surgery.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Otoplasty is usually an elective surgical operation. Alternative forms of management consist of not undergoing the otoplasty operation.

**SPECIFIC RISKS OF OTOPLASTY SURGERY**

**Ear Trauma:**

Physical injury after the otoplasty procedure could disrupt the results of surgery. Care must be given to protect the ear(s) from injury during the healing process. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct damage.

**Asymmetry:**

The human face is normally asymmetric. There can be normal differences between ears in terms of shape and size. There can be variations from one side to the other in the results obtained from an otoplasty procedure. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct postoperative asymmetry.

**Sutures:**

Most surgical techniques use deep sutures. You may notice these sutures after your surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible, or produce irritation that requires suture removal. If a suture pops or comes undone then you may notice asymmetry and this may require repair.