

Otoplasty surgery is the term used setting back prominent ears. Contemporary approaches normally involve the use of an incision behind the ear in which a small amount of skin is removed. This skin removal serves to allow access to the back of the ear rather than to help pull the ear back itself. The ear is set back using techniques to reshape the cartilage as it is an underdevelopment or maldevelopment of the cartilage that results in the prominence of ears.

Once the cartilage is exposed specific stitches are put in the ear tailored according to your individual ear appearance. It is important to aim for a natural appearing ear and one that is not overly set back nor one that has any sharp folds.

The surgery can take between 1-2 hours and is normally performed under local anaesthetic in adults or a short general anaesthetic in children. Following surgery, a light dressing will be put on which is maintained in place by a gently fitting headband. It is crucial that the head band is not too tight or this could result in blood flow problems to the skin cartilage to the ear which can result in requirement for further treatment.

As for any plastic surgery procedure there are risks associated with otoplasty surgery. This includes the following:

- Infection- Infection is an unusual complication after otoplasty surgery but if it occurs it may require antibiotics, dressings and in extreme cases further a surgery to wash out any collection of pus.
- Bleeding- Bleeding after otoplasty surgery is unusual but if it does occur to any degree, there might be a requirement to open up the wound and perform a wash out.
- Poor scarring - Whilst the scars for most patients heal very discreetly behind the ear a small proportion of patients can go on to develop unsightly lumpy scars. In extreme situations these scars may be so lumpy that they may actually push the ear out further. Further treatment might be required such as steroid injections or further surgery which would be at further cost should this be required.
- Asymmetry- Everyone's ears are asymmetric to a degree and there will always be an attempt to improve your symmetry. However, there will continue to be a degree of asymmetry between your ears within normal limits. Should there be significant asymmetry after surgery it is important to discuss your concerns as it might be that further surgery is warranted.
- Recurrence of Prominence- Up to 10% of ears can return to their prominent state. This might be due to damage to one of the internal stitches from trauma or from infection or bleeding. Alternatively, it might be that the ear has simply gradually drifted out but to its original position due to significant tension and loss of elasticity of the cartilage.
- Revision surgery- Revision surgery might be indicated for any of the above reasons. If it is purely for aesthetic reasons and patient preference further charges for revision surgery will apply. This will be discussed with you on an individual basis.
- Hypersensitivity and stiffness- It is normal for your ears to be temporarily hypersensitive and stiff after surgery. It can take 6-12 weeks for this to settle.

The as stated the overall goal for otoplasty surgery is natural looking ears within a normal range of shapes. "Perfection" is never possible with any plastic surgery procedure and it is important to understand this prior to embarking on any surgery.

For further information, would you please watch all the videos on the bottom of the page:
<https://www.marcpacifico.co.uk/treatments/face/prominent-ear-correction/>

Please also read the following PDF from cover to cover prior to our next consultation:
<https://www.marcpacifico.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/otoplasty.pdf>