What is Otoplasty?

Otoplasty is a surgical procedure used to reduce large or protruding ears by setting the ears back closer to the head as well as molding, shaping and/or removing cartilage. This procedure will not affect your hearing because it involves only the outer ear, not the middle or inner ear where hearing takes place.

What changes to appearance can I expect after the surgery?

After otoplasty surgery, there will be sutures (stitches) behind your child’s ears. He will also have a dressing wrapped around his head. This dressing is to stay in place for 3-4 days. It will be removed in clinic.

How will I take care of the wounds?

After your child has their head dressing removed in clinic, they will begin the “head-band protocol”. This involves wearing a headband at all times for the first 3 weeks after surgery. After that they will wear the headband at bedtime and when engaging in any physical activities for the next 3 months. After that time they will be required to wear the headband during sporting events and vigorous physical activities for the next 8-9 months. The sutures (stitches) on your child’s ears will be dissolvable. You will be asked to bring a headband to your post-operative visit. It is often helpful to have 2 or 3 headbands for your child so they may be washed often. Care must be taken to avoid trauma to the ears.
How will I manage pain at home?
By the time your child is ready to go home from the hospital they should not have much discomfort. The doctor may suggest a mild pain relief medication if needed. Try Tylenol® alone first. If your doctor prescribes Tylenol® with Codeine make sure your child takes it with food to prevent stomach upset.

What will my child be able to eat?
There are no dietary restrictions after otoplasty surgery.

When will my child return for a follow-up appointment?
If you did not receive an appointment when your child is discharged, please call the office at the number listed below to schedule The children are generally seen 3-4 days after surgery to have their head dressing removed.

When should I call the doctor?
Call us if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms:
- Signs of infection including bright redness or pus-like drainage, swelling, or oral temperature over 100.5°F
- If your child has persistent pain without relief from pain medication

What is the contact information?
If you have any question, problems or concerns call the Pediatric Plastic Surgery clinic from 8-5:00pm Monday thru Friday, 734-763-8063. After 5:00pm or on the weekends if you have urgent issues call hospital paging at 734 936-4000 and ask the operator to page the Plastic Surgery Resident “on call”.
