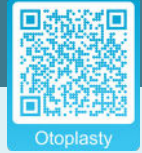


# OTOPLASTY



Otoplasty is a surgical procedure performed to correct large, protruding or otherwise deformed ears. Unlike most other plastic surgery procedures, otoplasty is often performed on children, as well as adults. In addition to correcting ears that are naturally large or deformed, otoplasty can also repair damage caused by an accident or injury.

## DIAGNOSIS

- ▶ **Observing the ear:**
  - ▶ Shape
  - ▶ Position
  - ▶ Size of the ear

## TYPE OF OTOPLASTY

- ▶ **Ear Augmentation:** Small ears that have not completely developed. An otoplasty would increase the size of the outer ear.
- ▶ **Ear Pinning:** This process involves pinning the ears closer to the head.
- ▶ **Ear Reduction:** When the ears are larger than normal, this process is to reduce the size of the ears.

## PROCEDURE

The otoplasty procedure is typically performed under general anesthesia. It can take between **1 to 3** hours, depending on the complexity of the procedure. The technique used depends on the type of otoplasty you're having:

- ▶ An incision is made on the back or inside of the ear for a more natural-looking appearance.
- ▶ Removal or folding the cartilage with stitches or a graft.
- ▶ Incisions are closed with stitches.

After the procedure, bandages will be applied to the ears to provide support and protect the incision. A bit of bruising, swelling, discomfort, and mild soreness is to be expected after surgery. The bandage is typically removed after a few days. Avoid pulling the ears forward or sleeping on the ear for a few weeks. If there is any scarring, it should rarely be visible, as the incisions are placed behind the ear.

For children, this procedure is usually performed under general anesthesia, while adults usually require only local anesthesia and sedation. Both ears may be operated on in order to achieve better balance. The results of the otoplasty procedure are permanent and scars will fade with time to become less noticeable.