



HEALTH CONSUMERS'
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CM03lite Pinnaplasty (Child)

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at any Western Australian public hospital for a copy.

Write questions or notes here:

This document will give you information about an otoplasty. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is an otoplasty?

An otoplasty (or pinnaplasty) is an operation to improve the appearance of your child's ears.

Is an otoplasty suitable for my child?

Your child is most likely to benefit from an otoplasty if they are self-conscious about their ears and have said this without any prompting from adults, they are being teased or their ears are unusually-shaped.

The operation should be performed only if the aim is to improve your child's self-confidence and to make them more comfortable with their appearance.

What are the benefits of surgery?

Your child's ears should have a better shape (see figure 1).

Are there any alternatives to surgery?

For six months after birth, it is possible to permanently change the shape of the ears using moulding splints. Once a baby is older than six months, surgery is the only option.

What does the operation involve?

The operation is usually performed under a general anaesthetic. For older children (young adults) the operation can be performed using only a local anaesthetic. The operation usually takes about an hour.

Your surgeon will make a cut at the back of the ear and peel off some skin from the cartilage. They will change the shape of the cartilage so the ear lies closer to your child's head. Your surgeon may also make a cut just inside the cartilage so they can peel back the skin from the front of the cartilage and lightly score it. This technique tends to make the cartilage bend towards your child's head.

Your surgeon will place a dressing on your child's head to give the ears support.

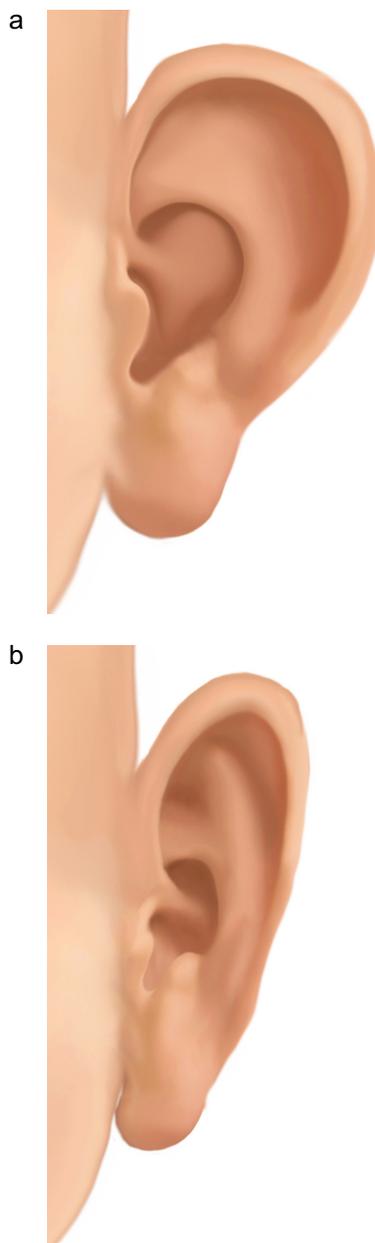


Figure 1

- a An ear sticking out with unusual folds
- b An ear closer to the head with more normal folds

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Unsightly scarring

2 Specific complications

- Cosmetic problems

How soon will my child recover?

Your child should be able to go home the next day.

For a few weeks, while the swelling and bruising settles, your child should rest and not do strenuous exercise. Your child can go back to school after the head dressing has been removed. Your child should not play sports for 6 weeks.

The results of an otoplasty are usually permanent.

Summary

An otoplasty is an operation to improve the appearance of your child's ears. The operation should be performed only if the aim is to improve their self-confidence and to make them more comfortable with their appearance. You should consider the options carefully and have realistic expectations about the results.

Acknowledgements

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