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Correction of prominent ears/ Otoplasty

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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What is otoplasty?

Otoplasty is a surgical procedure that is performed to change the position of prominent ears. Otoplasty is an operation that sets the ear back closer to the head.

Why is surgery needed?

It is usually performed for cosmetic reasons. It is important that the child wants to have the operation themselves because their co-operation is needed during treatment and this surgery leads to a permanent change in their appearance.

Are there any alternatives to otoplasty?

As this procedure is usually performed for cosmetic reasons, there is no medical need for children to have this operation. Psychological support can be very helpful if your child is having problems with bullying or has low self-esteem because of their appearance. The surgeon may refer you to a psychologist before considering surgery.

Benefits of the procedure:

It is hoped that you and your child will be happy with their new appearance.

Notes

What to do if you have any concerns:

If you have any concerns that are listed below:

- Excessive pain
- High temperature
- Bandages slipping
- Excessive bleeding
- Offensive smell from the wound
- Not eating or drinking well

Please contact your local children's ward for further advice.

A follow up appointment will be made and posted out to your address. If your child **does not live in the St. Helens area an appointment will be made where you were originally seen.**

Risks of the procedure:

Every operation carries a risk of complications, but this is very small. To reduce the risks, we need to make sure your child is well at the time of the procedure. We talk to you about the risks in the clinic and before the procedure when we confirm that we have your consent. This is also the ideal opportunity to ask any questions in regards to the surgery you may still have.

What happens during the operation:

The surgeon will make an incision (cut) behind the ear. This exposed the thick tissue (cartilage) inside the ear to allow for the reshaping. The surgeon will then reshape, fold and remove some of the cartilage to make your child's ears lie closer to the head. Finally, they put stitches at the back of the ears to hold them into their new position, where the ears will be fully bandaged, to help provide support and comfort. **The bandages will then be removed in a wound check appointment after 7-10days.**

Discomforts of the procedure:

Your child will have local anaesthetic medication during their procedure. This will give them pain relief for several hours after they wake up. There may be some pain following the surgery. When your child is awake, we may be able to give them paracetamol, ibuprofen or both medications depending on what they have been given in theatre. Once discharged home you can continue to give paracetamol (Calpol) and ibuprofen to your child. Before discharge the nurses will guide you on when they last had a dose so you can use the bottle directions to when they are allowed their next doses.

When can my child eat and drink after their procedure?

Your child should be able to eat and drink as usual.

Do we see the surgeon after my child's procedure?

Yes, the surgeon comes to check your child after their procedure. They update you about the surgery and answer any questions that you may have.

When can my child go home?

Your child can go home on the same day as their procedure when they:

- Feel comfortable
- Managing (tolerate) their usual food and drink
- Are not feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)
- Are behaving as they usually do.

After discharge:

It is not unusual for there to be a small amount of blood trickling from under the bandages.

This should soon stop.

- It is important to keep the bandages in place until you return to the clinic appointment, this will be **7-10days post operation**.
- The **bandages should not be** interfered with and it is best to make sure your child does not try and remove them/ try to scratch their ears.
- There is usually no pain when the bandages are being removed, the stitches are dissolvable, however the nurse may trim them if they are too long.
- There will be swelling and bruising to the ears, this will settle within a few weeks.
- It is important to protect the ears, especially at night so we recommend a wide headband to be worn over the ears for six weeks when your child goes to bed.
- Once the bandage has been removed your child's hair can be washed. **We advise a gentle hair wash, avoid rubbing the ears.**
- We recommend your child remains off school until the bandages have been removed.
- Your child **must avoid** contact sports for at **least 8 weeks**.
- Protect your child's ears from the sun as the new scars will be sensitive to sunlight and tend to burn easily.