A close-up, soft-focus portrait of a woman's face, focusing on her eyes and ear. Her hair is pulled back, and a hand is gently touching her earlobe. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting her skin texture.

Aura

ADVANCED SKIN CARE
& PLASTIC SURGERY

OTOPLASTY

EAR SURGERY

What is an Otoplasty?

The surgical procedure that corrects unequal or misshapen ears is known as an otoplasty.

The goal of otoplasty is to create a more natural and balanced appearance of not only the ears but of the entire head and facial profile.

Otoplasty can effectively correct excessively large ears, awkwardly protruding ears, or ears damaged from injury or illness.

Good candidates for an Otoplasty include those who:

- Are in overall good health
- Do not smoke
- Are unhappy with the shape or profile of their ears for any reason are likely great candidates for an otoplasty.

Who is a Good Candidate for Otoplasty?

Those who are in overall good health, don't smoke and are unhappy with the shape or profile of their ears for any reason are likely great candidates for an otoplasty.

Parents often consider otoplasty for their children to reduce the chances of their children being picked on if they were born with protruding or disfigured ears.

HOW IS AN OTOPLASTY DONE?

Before the Procedure

Meet with a Surgeon

First, you will need to meet with a board certified plastic surgeon. This is important because board certified plastic surgeons must meet rigorous qualifications and standards to receive their certification after completing four years of medical school and several more years of residency. Be wary of physicians who are certified by medical boards other than plastic surgery as they do not have the same extensive training.

In addition to their certification, choose a surgeon with experience doing the procedure you are interested in. Don't be afraid to ask how many procedures they perform per year or month and take that into account when choosing a surgeon.

During your Pre-op Visits

During your pre-op visits you'll also discuss your expectations, any medical conditions and medications you take. Pictures will likely be taken to document your ears before and after as well as outline the expected results of the procedure. Blood work may also be required to detect any pre-existing conditions in case special considerations need to be taken. Pre-op instructions will likely include when to stop eating and drinking before the procedure, and when to arrive for your procedure.

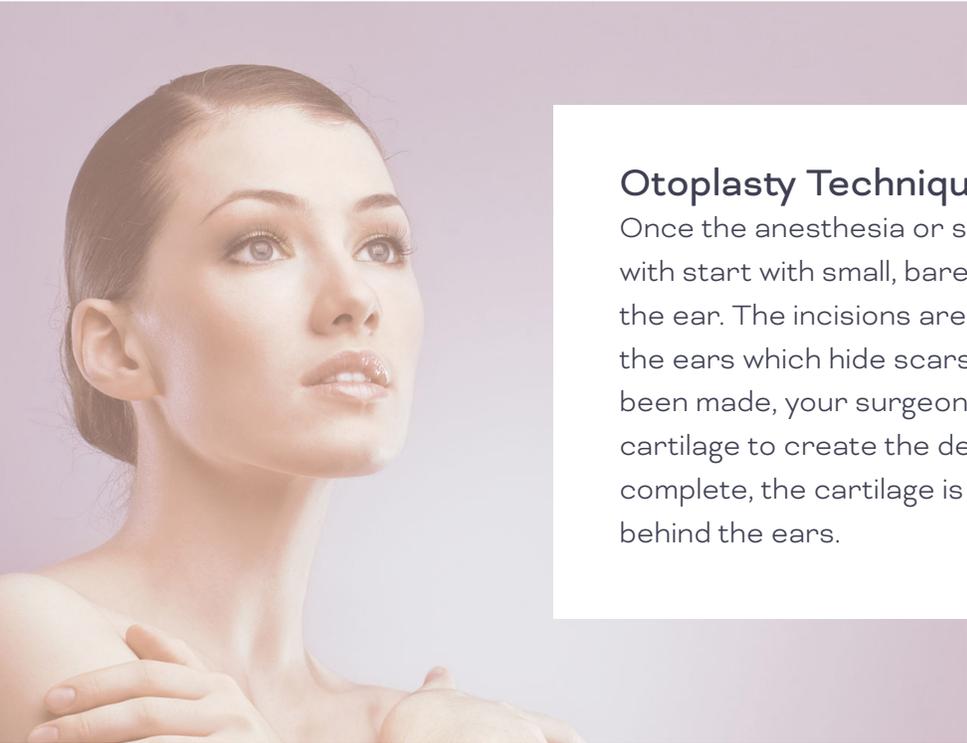
The Procedure

Where & how long will the surgery take?

Otoplasty surgeries are performed at an outpatient surgical center or hospital under general anesthesia or IV sedation. The average timeframe for an otoplasty is around two hours. Duration may be longer if combined with other procedures.

During your surgeon visit

During your visit with the surgeon, you will discuss your issues and concerns. A good surgeon will carefully listen to your wishes and help you know if an otoplasty is the right procedure for you.



Otoplasty Technique

Once the anesthesia or sedation has taken effect, your surgeon will start with small, barely noticeable incisions made behind the ear. The incisions are often made in the natural folds behind the ears which hide scars perfectly. Once the incisions have been made, your surgeon will remove excess skin and sculpt the cartilage to create the desired results. Once the adjustments are complete, the cartilage is covered up and the skin is reattached behind the ears.

After the Procedure

Once the procedure has been completed, you'll be held in the recovery room until you wake up from anesthesia or sedation.

Unless you are staying in a special post-op suite or the hospital, you will need to arrange for someone to drive you to and from surgery and stay with you the first few nights to help you recover.

WHAT IS RECOVERY FROM AN OTOPLASTY LIKE?

After the Surgery is Complete

After the surgery is complete, the ear or ears are bandaged and dressed in order to allow for proper healing and protection. These bandages will be removed during follow up appointments, usually within that first week. Redness, tenderness and swelling are common after otoplasty but should be short lived.

As you Recover over time

Post-procedure instructions include plenty of rest, fluids and keeping the head elevated which often means sleeping in a recliner or significantly propped up in bed.

Plan to have someone else around to help with some daily activities for a few days, especially if you have young kids or animals to take care of. Exercise and other types of physical activities may not be allowed for a few weeks. Your surgeon will give you specific instructions on when you can return to certain activities.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS & BENEFITS OF AN OTOPLASTY?

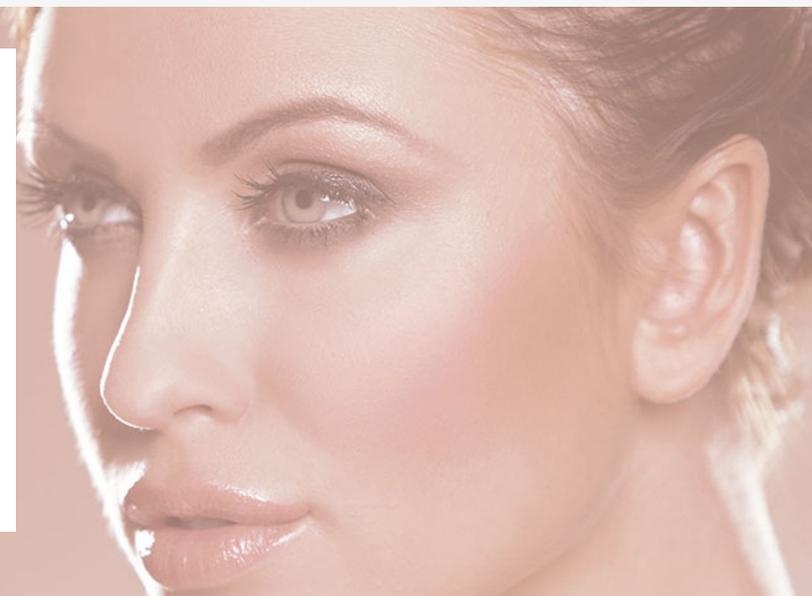
Results & Benefits

After the bandages come off

Although some swelling may be present for the a few weeks or so after the procedure, the final results from an otoplasty are immediately noticeable once the bandages are removed.

Otoplasty Benefits

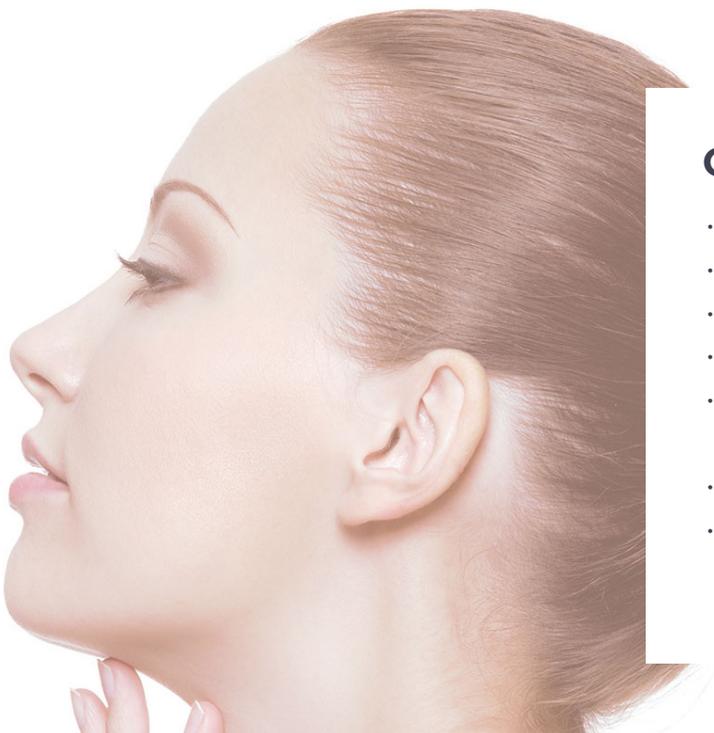
- More Symmetrical & balanced facial profile
- Well proportioned ears
- Pinning of protruding ears
- Correction of prior damage to ears
- Improved self-confidence



WHAT RISKS COME WITH AN OTOPLASTY?

Risks are present with any type of procedure or medical treatment. Knowing what risks you may face will help you weigh the pros and cons so you can make the right decision for you.

Your surgeon will go over risks that may be more specific to you but in general here are some risks associated with otoplasty procedures:



Otoplasty Risks

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Blood Clots
- Skin discoloration from scarring or bruising
- Undesirable scarring depending on what technique is used
- Chronic Pain
- Adverse reactions to anesthesia or sedation medication

LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING CONSULTATION

- ❓ Is the surgeon a Board Certified Plastic Surgeon?
- ❓ Are there any steps I can take to help me prepare for my surgery?
- ❓ What surgical technique would be best for me?
- ❓ Are there otoplasty before-and-after photos of individuals with a similar body type as mine so I can see what a similar outcome might be for me?
- ❓ Are there any risks and complications specifically associated with my breast augmentation procedure?
- ❓ Will I be going home afterward or staying overnight?
- ❓ Will I be given any medication after the surgery?
- ❓ How should I expect to feel immediately following and for the first few days after the procedure?
- ❓ What will the bandages and dressings be like and for how long will I have to wear them?
- ❓ What is the typical time-frame for recovery?
- ❓ What daily activities should I avoid during recovery and for how long?
- ❓ Will I need help during my recovery? What kind and for how long?
- ❓ Is there a number I can call in case complications arise?
- ❓ How often will follow up visits be?
- ❓ Will stitches need to be removed? If so, when?
- ❓ What's the expected time-frame for healing? When can I expect to see the final results?
- ❓ Where will the surgery be performed?
- ❓ If it is a hospital, is it accredited by the Joint Commission? You can check at www.qualitycheck.org
- ❓ If it is an office-based surgical facility and not a hospital, is it accredited by a nationally or state-recognized accrediting agency? Specifically, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and The Joint Commission? You can check at <http://www.aaahc.org/>