

Day of Surgery

Types of Anesthesia

If a child is having this procedure and is young, your surgeon may recommend general anesthesia, so the child will sleep through the operation. For older children or adults, the surgeon may prefer to use local anesthesia, combined with a sedative, so you or your child will be awake but relaxed.

The Surgery

Ear surgery usually takes about two to three hours, although complicated procedures may take longer. The technique will depend on the problem.

There may be packing inside your ear making it difficult to hear. After surgery you will have an ace wrap with gauze to keep your ears in place. You will use this 2-4 weeks. This will be discussed further with your surgeon. The ears may throb or ache a little for a few days, but this can be relieved by medication.

Stitches will dissolve in approximately a week. You may shower after your first dressing removal (do not submerge it under water). The sticky yellow gauze inside the ear and the white gauze may be removed within **3-5 days** after surgery. Place soft white gauze and then replace ace wrap firmly but it should not be uncomfortable. You may place a piece of gauze behind the ear to prevent moisture accumulation between the skin layers. If you would prefer the office to change the dressing for the first time please call office to schedule the dressing change **3-5 days** after the procedure.

Postoperative

After surgery report to the office any excessive pain, any rise in temperature over 100 degrees, chills, excessive bleeding.

Pain medication should be taken every 4-6 hours as necessary to minimize discomfort. Avoid driving a vehicle or doing work requiring heavy concentration while taking medications. Alcohol should not be taken with pain pills.

Drink at least 8 oz. of fluids every 4 hours. No carbonated or caffeinated drinks for 24 hours.

There should be no interactive or contact sports. You must avoid injury or pulling to ears. Any activity in which the ear in which the ear might be bent should be avoided for a month or so. Most adults can go back to work about five days after surgery.

Children can go back to school after seven days or so, if they're careful about playground activity. You may want to ask you child's teacher to keep an eye on the child for a few weeks.

Final Result

Most Patients, young and old alike, are thrilled with the results of ear surgery. But keep in mind, the goal is improvement, not perfection. Don't expect both ears to match perfectly-perfect symmetry is both unlikely and unnatural in ears. If you've discussed the procedure and your expectations with the surgeon before the operation, chances are, you'll be quite please with the result

Preoperative

Ear surgery, or otoplasty, is usually done to set prominent ears back closer to the head or to reduce the size of large ears.

Avoid alcohol at least 24 hours prior to surgery.

No food or liquid after midnight the night before surgery. These precautions are necessary for anesthesia.

Advise the doctor of any significant medical problems that affect your health e.g. high blood pressure, angina, heart failure, or arrhythmia, diabetes, skin abscesses, kidney or respiratory infection, or blood coagulation problems.

Make arrangements for transportation to and from the hospital. A responsible adult must stay with you for 24 hours after anesthesia.

Wash face and hair the evening prior to surgery. Do not apply makeup or wear any jewelry on the day of your surgery. Do not apply creams or cosmetics.

Complete all pre-testing and lab work 3 weeks prior to your surgery.

Fill your prescriptions prior to your surgery. These will be taken after the procedure, unless otherwise ordered.

Pain medication is prescribed to alleviate your discomfort.

Antibiotics will be prescribed. Please alert the physician of any allergies to medications. You may want to begin taking yogurt with active cultures daily following surgery.

OTOPLASTY (EAR SURGERY)



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