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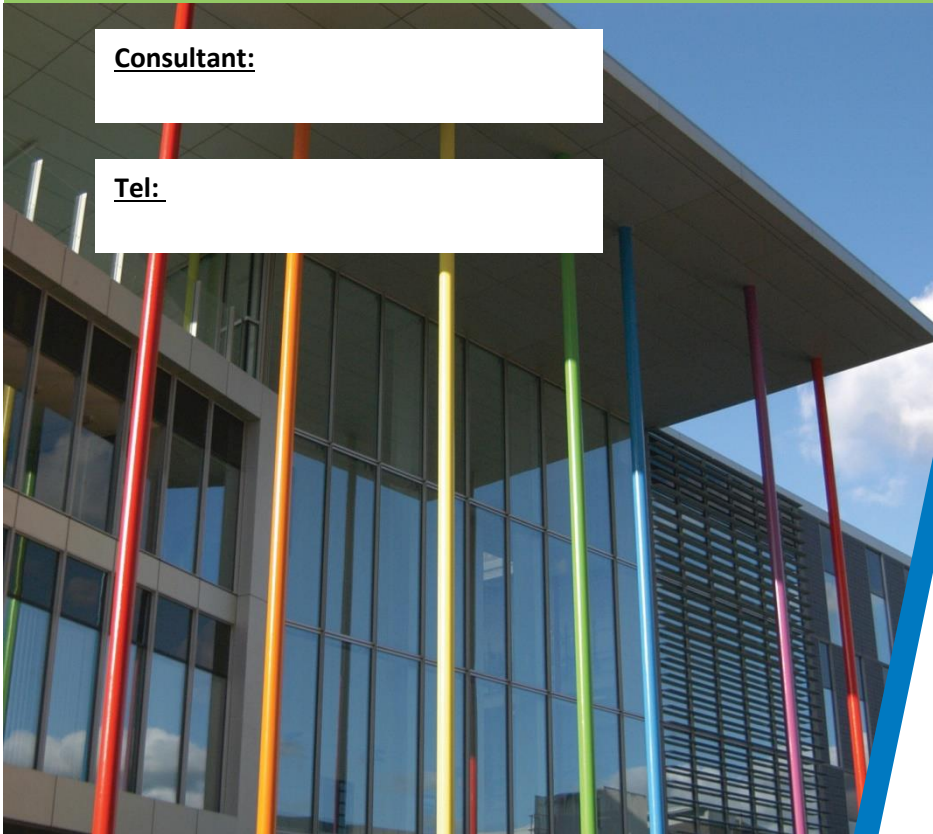
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Correction of prominent ears (Pinnaplasty)

Information for Parents, Carers and Patients

Consultant:

Tel:



This information sheet explains the operation to correct your child's prominent ears what to expect when your child comes into the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

What is a pinnaplasty?

Our ears are made up of skin and cartilage and come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes they may be more prominent (stick out) or be different from each other (asymmetric). Although this does not cause a medical problem, children with prominent ears can sometimes be teased by their peers and this can affect their self-esteem.

A pinnaplasty is the name given to the operation to correct prominent ears (pinna). The purpose of the operation is restore a more "normal" shape and position to the ear. The procedure is a cosmetic one. It is completely you and your child's decision whether or not to have the surgery. Often, children and parents choose to have this procedure to help improve self-confidence and allow the child to feel more comfortable with their appearance.

The operation is usually carried out from the age of 6 onwards. This is because at this age, the cartilage of the ear has usually sufficiently matured. It is also because children from this age onwards are often be able to contribute to the discussion about whether or not they would like to go ahead with the surgery. After all, it's their ear!

What will happen on the day of the procedure?

Information about how to prepare your child for their operation will be included in their admission letter. It is important to follow these instructions. Failure to do so may result in the procedure being delayed or cancelled.

Your surgeon will speak to you again on the day of surgery to once again go through the procedure, risks and complications with you and to answer any questions you may have following your clinic/ward review. As the pinnaplasty is performed under a general anaesthetic, your child will also be reviewed by an anaesthetist on the day of surgery. They will be able to answer any questions you may have relating to the general anaesthetic.

Once the anaesthetic has been given, the procedure can take 1-2 hours. Generally speaking, there are two techniques a surgeon may use to change



the shape of the ear.

- The surgeon may make a small cut in the skin behind the ear to expose the cartilage. The cartilage is then reshaped to the required position and is held in place by stitches placed under the skin.
- Cuts are made part way through the cartilage to encourage it to bend into a particular shape

All ears are unique and the technique used will be decided by your surgeon. Whichever technique is used, the skin cut will be closed using dissolvable stitches. A bandage is then placed over the ears to hold them in position and protect them from being bumped. This bandage will need to be kept on for the next 7-10 days. Your child will then be taken to the recovery room

Are there any risks with this surgery?

As with all surgery, a pinnaplasty carries some risks. These include:

- Infection (this is uncommon but can sometimes occur and is easily treated with a course of antibiotics)
- Bleeding (this is uncommon and the head bandage used to keep the ears in position help prevent this)
- Haematoma (collection of blood) underneath the wound site
- Scar (although most scars heal well, there is a small risk of excess scarring or keloid formation)
- Altered sensation (it is not uncommon for ears to feel a bit numb or tingly for a few weeks after surgery)
- Over and under-correction requiring further surgery
- There is a very small risk with any anaesthetic. However, modern anaesthetics are very safe.



It is important to remember that nobody's ears are perfectly symmetrical. The goal of surgery is improvement, not perfection. Perfect symmetry is uncommon in nature and can look unnatural

What should I expect when my child returns to the ward?

Your child will recover from the anaesthetic in the recovery room and then be taken to the ward. It is not uncommon for children to be a little tired and disorientated after a general anaesthetic.

Your child can drink as soon as they are awake. Nursing staff will advise you when your child may eat.

Your child will not be able to go home until they have tolerated something to eat and drink.

Will my child have any pain following the operation?

It is normal after surgery for your child to experience some discomfort and tenderness in the first couple of days. Pain relief will be given whilst in hospital and you will need to continue to give regular pain relief up to 5 days after the operation.

How long will my child be in hospital?

Your surgeon will speak to you again following the procedure to let you know how it went. It is most likely your child will be able to go home the same day as the surgery. Your surgeon will decide this according to your child's medical history and general health. If they can go home the same day, it is usually about four hours after they arrive in recovery. If your

child's surgeon decides they need to stay longer, this is likely to be an overnight stay and you should be able to return home the following morning.

Will I need transport to take my child home?

Yes. You should arrange a car to take your child home in.

To avoid your child catching any infections, do not use public transport.

Are there any things I need to watch for when my child goes home?

- If your child's bandage begins to loosen, smell or show signs of bleeding, you will need to contact the ward as we will need to arrange to have the bandage replaced.
- Your child's hearing may be affected whilst the bandage is in place so you will need to ensure they are supervised near roads etc.
- Your child may feel nauseated (sick) after discharge from hospital but this usually goes away after a few days.
- It is quite normal for your child's ears to feel sore, tender/ numb for a few days. This will improve and should be easily managed using over-the-counter pain relief.
- Your child will be unable to wash their hair until after the bandage has been removed. Please keep the bandage dry.
- Your child will also be unable to take part in any contact sports for 6-8 weeks after the operation

How long will my child need to be away from school?

Your child can go back to school once the bandages have been removed. However, they must not participate in any sports for 6-8 weeks after the

Will my child need to be seen at the hospital again?

Your child will be given a follow up appointment for your surgeon to examine the ears. This is usually within 2 weeks of the operation. At this

time, your surgeon will advise you about the timeline for further follow-up depending on how the ear is looking.

If your child is unwell in anyway when they are due to come into hospital, please contact the Admissions Department for advice.

If you are worried about anything or require further information please contact the ward.

Covid and surgery

It is likely that having an operation while carrying the Covid-19 virus causes an additional risk of developing complications. How much of a risk this is in children remains unclear. Whilst we are awaiting more details around this, we have taken precautions both prior to admission as well as during hospital stay to limit the risk of Covid-19 in the peri-operative period.

Questions

We understand that there may be questions that either you or your child would like answering. Most of us forget what we were going to ask the doctor or the nurse.

Please write your questions below.





No Smoking Policy

Please protect our patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in any of our hospital buildings or grounds, except in the dedicated smoking shelters in the grounds of our Hospital site.

For advice and support on how to give up smoking, go to www.nhs.uk/smokefree.

Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter, please ask a member of staff to arrange this for you.



تنص سياستنا على عدم السماح لافراد عائلة المرضى او اقاربهم او اصدقائهم بالترجمة لهم. اذا احتجت الى مترجم فيرجى ان تطلب ذلك من احد العاملين ليترتب لك ذلك.

بماری یہ پالیسی ہے کہ خاندان ، رشتہ دار اور دوست مریضوں کے لئے ترجمہ نہیں کر سکتے۔ اگر آپ کو مترجم کی ضرورت ہے تو عملے کے کسی رکن سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کے لئے اس کا بندوبست کر دے۔

ইহা আমাদের নীতি যে, একজন রোগীর জন্য তার পরিবারের সদস্য, আত্মীয় বা কোন বন্ধু অনুবাদক হতে পারবেন না। আপনার একজন অনুবাদকের প্রয়োজন হলে তা একজন কর্মচারীকে জানান অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য।

Nasze zasady nie pozwalają na korzystanie z pomocy członków rodzin pacjentów, ich przyjaciół lub ich krewnych jako tłumaczy. Jeśli potrzebują Państwo tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt z członkiem personelu, który zorganizuje go dla Państwa.

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我们的方针是，家属，亲戚和朋友不能为病人做口译。如果您需要口译员，请叫员工给您安排。



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