

## SUMMARY

Correction of prominent ears is a common surgical procedure which can improve your body image and your self confidence.

North Shore Cosmetic Surgery is a group of Plastic Surgeons dedicated to providing a high standard of service to the North Shore.

All members are Fellows of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and Australian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, and have been trained to the highest possible standards.

North Shore Cosmetic Surgery provides a comprehensive range of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery procedures, as well as a full range of the latest skin care, lasers and aesthetic treatments.

## PRACTICE LOCATIONS

### Dr Charles Cope

Level 1, 357 Military Rd  
Mosman 2088

Suite 507 SAN Clinic  
Wahroonga 2076

[www.drcharlescope.com.au](http://www.drcharlescope.com.au)

Ph: (02) 9908 3033

INFINITY

SKIN CLINIC

[www.infinityskin.com.au](http://www.infinityskin.com.au)

North Shore  Cosmetic Surgery

A patient guide  
to understanding

Prominent Ear Correction  
(Otoplasty)

Prepared by

Dr Charles Cope

MBBS BSc(Med) FRACS

Member  
AUSTRALIAN  
SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC  
SURGEONS



## INTRODUCTION

Otoplasty is a commonly performed operation to correct ears which stick out too far from the side of the head and to improve the shape of the ears. It can be performed to correct differences between the two ears as well as to bring the ear position more into harmony with the rest of the face. This can improve your appearance and enhance your self esteem, making you feel more self-confident.

Otoplasty is performed in adults but is more frequently performed in children in order to avoid teasing at school. In children, it is usually best performed any time after the age of six, by which time the ear cartilage is mature enough to be shaped. It is best to wait until your child wants the surgery so that they can co-operate with the surgery and the aftercare.

## BEFORE THE SURGERY

As in all cosmetic surgery, it is important for you to tell your surgeon the specific areas that concern you. It is important to discuss with your surgeon any pre-existing medical conditions which you may have, as well as any problems with previous operations or anaesthetics, or a history of bad scarring.

Your surgeon will discuss the operation with you, show you photos of other patients who have had the procedure, and will give you written information about the operation. Both the expected result as well as the risks of the operation will be explained.

## PREPARING FOR THE SURGERY

If you smoke it is important to stop smoking at least a few weeks before the surgery smoking slows blood flow to the skin and significantly increases the chance of healing problems after the surgery.

Aspirin, anti-inflammatory medications eg Nurofen, and some vitamins and herbal medications can cause increased bleeding and these also need to be stopped 10 days before the surgery.

## THE SURGERY

Otoplasty is performed under a general anaesthetic, usually as a day-surgery procedure. During the surgery local anaesthetic is also used, which helps with post-operative pain relief.

The scars for otoplasty are all placed behind the ear so as not to be easily visible. In order to improve the shape of your ear a combination of either moulding the cartilage or using stitches may be used. Additional stitches may be used to pull the entire ear closer to the side of the head and also to correct prominence of the ear lobes. Before you wake up a head bandage is applied around the forehead and ears.

## AFTER THE SURGERY

Otoplasty is not usually a painful procedure, and usually only simple pain medications are needed afterwards. The head bandage needs to be kept dry and is left in place for a week, at which time it is removed and any stitches that need to be removed are taken out. From this time the ears are left uncovered and you can shower normally. You will need to wear a headband at night for a few weeks following the procedure.

