

Otoplasty

Patient _____ Date _____

I hereby request Dr. Isabel Chow and Dr. David Sion and their operating room team to perform upon me a surgical operation known as otoplasty, commonly known as a *correction of prominent ears*.

This surgery has been explained to me and I understand the nature and consequences of the surgery. The following points have been particularly stressed to me:

- The purpose of an otoplasty is to set the ears back closer to the head.
- Complications and bad results are uncommon from this type of operation, but they do sometimes occur. It is even possible that the appearance of my ears will be less pleasing after the operation than it is now. We can make no guarantee as to the result that might be obtained from this operation. However, for the vast majority of patients, the results desired from the surgery are achieved.
- Every attempt will be made to have a symmetrical result, but absolute symmetry is impossible.
- There are scars following this surgery and they are permanent. The redness of the scars usually persists for 1-2 years and may be permanent. No guarantee has been made as to the width, hardness, colour, or symmetry of these scars. The location of these scars has been explained to me. I understand it may not be feasible to use these locations and I authorize alternative locations as Dr Chow and Dr Sion see fit.

Possible Complications

When an otoplasty is performed by a qualified plastic surgeon, complications are infrequent and usually minor. Still, individuals vary greatly in their anatomy, their physical reactions, and their healing abilities, and the outcome is never completely predictable.

The most common complications following otoplasty include the following:

- Bleeding under the ear (haematoma): You should expect a small amount of bleeding from your incision line during the first 24 to 36 hours after your surgery.

Any type of surgery may result in excessive bleeding in the operated area. This may be due to a temporary increase in blood pressure, for example due to coughing. It can also occur from the effects of medication like aspirin or anti-inflammatory drugs. Bleeding is usually manifested by acute swelling of

the area, discolouration of the skin, pain and a feeling of tension. External compression of the wound usually stops it. In rare cases, if it continues, we may have to stop it after reopening the incision. Massive bleeding may require hospitalization and transfusion.

If the accumulation of blood is small, it may be allowed to absorb by itself or aspiration may be indicated as with a seroma. However, if it is large, formal drainage in an operating room may be necessary.

- **Infection:** Infection in the cartilage following otoplasty is rare, but if it occurs, it can cause scar tissue to form. The incidence is less than 1% and severe infections are extremely uncommon. However, any surgical wound can become infected. An infection usually will become apparent a few days after the surgery. The signs are: pain, redness, heat and swelling. Antibiotics and dressing changes will often control it. On rare occasions, hospitalization and formal drainage in the operating room may be needed to control more significant infections.

You will be given a prophylactic antibiotic when undergoing your otoplasty. In addition you will be sent home with a prescription for antibiotics for 4-5 days.

- **Bruising:** If you bruise easily, discolouration may remain for several weeks after surgery. You should advise us of any past history of bleeding disorder. In rare cases, discolouration may be permanent.
- **Numbness:** After the operation it is not unusual to find that the skin of the ears has decreased sensation. Sensation spontaneously returns within a relatively short period of time and is usually complete in 3-4 months. Only in rare instances will sensation fail to return.
- **Nerve injury:** Nerve injuries following otoplasty are rare.
- **Scarring** - Prominent, unsightly scars (thick, red, ropy, itchy, and painful): These scars are normally well-hidden behind the ears. The normal healing of wounds is a physiological process which continues to take place in the depths of the tissues for many months before final resolution. At first, the surgical scar is almost invisible. Then it becomes red and somewhat elevated for about 3 months. It then becomes paler, softer and flatter and reaches its resolved state in 6 to 12 months. Aesthetic surgery has its limitations. Any time the skin is opened a scar of some kind results. This may be a good scar (fine white line) or a conspicuous one, but there is always a scar of some sort.

Each individual's healing is different. Some form fine white lines while others will form heavier ones. The surgeon has no influence on the actual formation of a scar. Factors that can influence the quality of healing include smoking, obesity, infection and bleeding. The complete mechanisms of wound healing are not yet fully understood. Thus, the factors that may lead to formation of a conspicuous scar are not yet known.

Very heavy (hypertrophic) scars or keloids (scars which escape the confines of the original wound) are uncommon. They are found most frequently on the front of the chest, abdomen, and shoulder area. Dark skinned peoples (particularly those of African, Asian or Mediterranean descent) are more susceptible to the development of hypertrophic scars.

Sun exposure of a new scar should be avoided for the first year following your operation. An immature scar exposed to sun may become more visible and pigmented.

Despite meticulous technique and attentive post operative management, a small percentage of patients will develop some unsightly scarring. The scars may widen over a period of several weeks or months or possibly exhibit a true hypertrophy (red, raised, itchy, and painful). These scars can be treated by a variety of methods including local pressure, massage, cortisone injections, topical creams, and surgical revision. Rarely, hypertrophic scars are permanent and will not respond to treatment.

- Residual or recurrent deformity: This is the most common unsatisfactory result from otoplasty. It includes sharp ridges in the ear and incomplete or over correction. Recurrence of the deformity can also occur if the stitches holding the cartilage in place give way. These situations may require surgical revision.
- Suture extrusion: The sutures used to fold the cartilage in its new position are permanent. Occasionally they can work themselves to the surface of the skin incision. This may or may not result in recurrence of the protruding ear.
- Post-operative swelling: Some swelling after your operation is normal. Time and elevation of the head are the two most important factors in reducing swelling.

Some of the complications of these operations can cause the need for further surgery. Some of the complications can cause prolonged illness, poorly healing wounds, scarring and permanent disability.

I request and give permission for the operation to be performed as an outpatient in an accredited facility.

I consent to the performance of operations and surgeries in addition to or different from those now contemplated, arising from presently unforeseen conditions which the doctors may consider necessary or advisable in the course of the operation.

I am aware that the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science, and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me as to the results of the operation.

I am not known to be allergic to anything except:_____ I have informed the doctors of all medications I am currently taking including prescriptions, over the counter remedies, herbal therapies, and any other.

I understand that smoking can increase the risk of infection, poor wound healing and poor scarring. I am _____ am not _____ a smoker.

It is important to realize that, although aesthetic surgery is designed to improve the appearance, it cannot accomplish miracles. Aesthetic plastic surgery has its limits and cannot ensure social, professional, or matrimonial success. Those who seek the benefit of aesthetic plastic surgery should do so for their own personal satisfaction, not to please someone else.

I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I understand the risks involved in this surgery. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and all of my questions have been answered.

The cost of any surgical revisions for technical reasons will be as follows: All fees from the surgeons will be waived. The patient will be responsible for costs associated with anaesthesia and use of the surgical facility.

I consent to be photographed before, during, and after the treatment. No external use of these photographs will be made without my permission.

For patients who reside outside Ontario:

I agree to the following:

- The Surgery is to be performed in Ontario and the Courts in the Province of Ontario shall have exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate any complaint, demand, claim or course of action including but not limited to claim for breach of contract or alleged negligence arising from the surgery and that any such legal proceedings will commence in the Province of Ontario only, and hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario.
- That the relationship between Dr. Isabel Chow and Dr. David Sion and me shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario.

PATIENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

WITNESS _____