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Otoplasty - Prominent ear surgery

Otoplasty, sometimes referred to as ear pinning or prominent ear surgery, is a procedure designed to reposition ears that protrude noticeably from the sides of the head.

Potential Risks and Complications

Modern surgery is generally safe but does have the potential for risks and complications to occur.

Some possible complications and risks associated with a otoplasty may include:

- Infection that may require treatment with antibiotics or further surgery in some cases
- Allergic reaction to sutures, dressings or antiseptic solutions
- The formation of a large blood clot (haematoma) beneath an incision site that may require drainage
- Chest infection, which may develop after general anaesthesia
- A sore throat caused by the breathing tube used during general anaesthesia
- Pain, bruising and swelling around the operated site(s)
- Keloids and hypertrophic scars that are raised, red and thickened scars that may form over the healed incisions. These may be itchy, annoying and unsightly but are not a threat to health
- Slow healing, often related to smoking or diabetes
- Short-term nausea following general anaesthesia and other risks related to anaesthesia
- Asymmetrical ears, further surgery may be necessary to correct symmetry problems or irregularities in the cartilage
- Re-protrusion of one or both ears may occur and require further surgery
- Nausea and loss of balance related to fluid accumulation within the inner ear
- Temporary or permanent loss of sensation in the skin around the surgical site and the surface of the ear
- Small areas of skin overlying the cartilage of the ear may die, resulting in the formation of an ulcer that may take several weeks to heal.

Disclaimer: The above list is not exhaustive and other risks, complications, or outcomes may occur during or after your surgery. If you wish to discuss the potential risks and complications further, please do so at your patient consultation.

Dr. Turner is a member of the following professional organisations

