

OTOPLASTY FAQs

What Is Otoplasty?

Otoplasty is the medical term to describe "Ear Correction Surgery".

Otoplasty surgery can improve the appearance of prominent or 'sticking out' ears, often referred to as 'Ear Pinning Surgery' or 'Ear Correction Surgery'.

What Does Otoplasty Surgery Involve?

There are many variations of Otoplasty 'ear' surgery as mentioned above. The most requested being the reduction of the protrusion of prominent ears whilst providing a natural result. This objective is achieved by modifying the cartilage beneath the skin thereby altering the shape and position to a more desired appearance. Often a small incision (approximately 3 - 4cm long) is situated in the natural groove behind the ear. This ensures that scarring is minimal and very discreet.

Am I Suitable For Otoplasty?

Mr. Karidis will inform you of what results can be achieved during your consultation.

How Will I Feel After Surgery?

When you return to your room following Otoplasty surgery, you will have a bandage in place around the head and ear area. This will minimize any swelling and ensure that the ears are held in their new position.

Often patients report some discomfort following surgery. This is kept to a minimum with the use of regular pain relief.

Can Otoplasty Surgery Go Wrong?

All surgery carries some uncertainty and risk. When Otoplasty Surgery 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. Probably the most common complication is residual irregularity in the cartilage when the ear is viewed from either frontal of side angles. It should be noted however, that both ears

are never exactly alike and perfect symmetry is therefore not a reasonable expectation. Though extremely uncommon, bleeding and infection can occur post any surgery. Precautions are taken whilst in hospital and you will be advised accordingly to keep this risk to a minimum. The final appearance of any scar is impossible to predict. You should always expect that scarring may appear red raised and lumpy in the first few months after surgery. After this time however these usually soften and fade. In rare cases the development of permanent, hard, thick scar tissue (keloid scars) can occur. You will be assessed during your consultation with Mr Karidis in order to assess your risk.

How Long Until I am Back To Normal Following Otoplasty Surgery?

Most people feel able to return to work once bandages and stitches are removed (at around one week post surgery). However, residual swelling may take around 2 weeks or more to subside.

Nurses top tip:

Ice packs can help reduce swelling and keep you comfortable.

What Costs Are Involved?

A surgeon fee, anesthetist fee and hospital fee will be required. You will be given a breakdown of these costs on the day of your consultation.

How Many Otoplasty Procedures Has Mr. Karidis Performed?

In accordance with the National Healthcare commission guidelines, according to the last five years of annual audit figures submitted to the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth in London, Mr. Karidis performed numerous successful Otoplasty Procedures per year.

Does Post Otoplasty Surgery Affect Travelling?

After your operation you may feel a little drowsy from the anaesthetic and other medications.



Quick Reference

Surgery time
1 hour

Anaesthetic used
General or local anaesthesia

Hospital stay
Day case

Pre admission tests required
Blood tests +/- ECG

Up and about
Immediately

Washing
Daily from 24hrs

Driving
1 week

Exercise
3 weeks

Time off work
1-2 weeks

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Therefore we strongly suggest that, if possible, you nominate a friend or family member to collect you. Alternatively, we can assist you in booking a taxi whilst you are in hospital.

Does Karidis Offer Post Surgery Aftercare?

Yes and we look forward to seeing you at the clinic around 7 and 14 days after your surgery to review your results, thoroughly clean the area and advise you accordingly. Providing all is well, you will usually see Mr. Karidis at around 6 weeks post operation for a routine check up. Further appointments can of course be made if necessary.

How Do I Prepare for My Op?

It is always useful to allow yourself plenty of time to recover and organise sufficient time off work. 2 weeks should give you sufficient time to allow any obvious swelling to subside. Ensure any blood tests or other tests that are required are undertaken well in advance to avoid any potential delays.

What Warning Signs Should I Look Out For?

Please ensure that you notify medical staff of any excessive swelling, persistent high temperature (above 37.5 degrees for 12 hours or more) or uncontrollable pain. Most often there is nothing to be concerned about, however, it is always best to check!

Why Should I Choose Otoplasty Surgery?

The goal of Otoplasty surgery is to gain an improvement, not perfection. If you've discussed the procedure and your expectations before the operation, you will likely be very pleased with the result. By significantly improving the appearance of prominent or misshapen ears, an Otoplasty procedure can also boost an individual's personal confidence and self esteem.