

Postoperative Instructions for Otoplasty

A turban-type bandage is worn about the head to cover the ears the night after surgery. This remains in place for 4-5 days. After the bandage is removed, the patient wears a stocking cap or head band pulled down over the ears while sleeping to protect them for another two (2) weeks. Most patients return to work or school in 5-7 days following surgery.

The sutures used to close the skin incisions behind the ears usually dissolve. They generally do not require removal if they are properly soaked with hydrogen peroxide applied with Q-tips as directed. This should be repeated **3** times per day for **2** weeks. **DO NOT PULL THE EARS FORWARD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!** Most patients may shower and wash their hair daily beginning the day after surgery (using baby shampoo).

When the dressings are first removed, the ears will appear to have been overcorrected, or too close to the head; but within a few days they begin to assume their new position. With any surgery, it takes time for healing to be complete. We want to monitor the healing process closely, so please keep the postoperative appointments.

In addition:

- ❖ Notify us of any excessive swelling, redness or discomfort.
- ❖ Continue taking the medications you were given until they are used up. They usually do not need to be refilled.
- ❖ Some numbness may persist for several weeks after surgery.
- ❖ On rare occasions, one of the deeper sutures may work its way to the skin surface. If it does, come in so we can remove it.

If you have any problems or additional questions, please feel free to call us.