

What is EarTuckSM Surgery?

EarTuckSM Surgery, also known as cosmetic ear surgery or otoplasty, is a procedure designed to reduce the size of large ears or pin back ears that protrude too far from the head. Having overly prominent ears can be a source of teasing for children and self-consciousness for adults. Commonly referred to as “ear pinning,” it can greatly enhance a person’s appearance and self-esteem.

Am I a good candidate for EarTuckSM Surgery?

People with ears that “stick out” or those with an enlarged ear lobule are good candidates for EarTuckSM, which can treat the following conditions:

1. Cartilage that is formed in the ear without a fold close to the upper edge.
2. An excessive amount of cartilage formed in the middle of the ear.
3. The angle that the ear makes with the scalp is larger than normal.

Those with other ear deformities will not benefit from EarTuckSM.

What can I expect?

Surgery is performed under general anesthesia and is typically completed in an hour (facility and anesthesia fees will apply). During surgery, a small incision in the back of the ear, sculpting the cartilage to reshape the ear, and then using stitches to pin the ear into a more pleasing shape. The three conditions listed above are addressed. Dressings are placed to protect the ears.

Because the incisions are small and hidden behind the ears, there is no visible scarring.

How long is the recovery period after EarTuckSM Surgery?

After completing the EarTuckSM procedure, a large bandage will be placed around your head to promote proper healing and prevent anything from disturbing your ears. After a few days, the bandage will be removed and your surgeon will supply you with a much lighter dressing, similar to a headband. The dressing must be worn at night for about 6 weeks following the surgery.

Excessive activity should be avoided for the first few weeks after the procedure. You may begin light exercise after 4 weeks, and contact sports may be resumed after 6 weeks. However, each patient’s exact recovery period is unique to his or her circumstances.

Are there risks associated with EarTuckSM Surgery?

As with any surgery, there are certain risks associated with EarTuckSM Surgery. Though rare, these include infection, bruising, swelling, scarring, bleeding, numbness or hematoma.