

Kaiser Permanente Cosmetic Services

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INFORMED CONSENT – COSMETIC EAR SURGERY (OTOPLASTY)

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help inform you of otoplasty surgery, its risks, as well as alternative treatments.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for surgery as proposed by your surgeon.

INTRODUCTION

Otoplasty is a surgical process to reshape the ear. A variety of different techniques and approaches may be used to reshape congenital prominence in the ears or to restore damaged ears. Each individual seeking otoplasty is unique both in terms of the appearance of their ears and expectations for results following otoplasty surgery. It is important that you fully discuss your expectations with your surgeon prior to surgery.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

Alternative forms of management consist of not undergoing the otoplasty operation.

RISKS of OTOPLASTY SURGERY

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with otoplasty. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of patients do not experience the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your surgeon to make sure you understand all possible consequences of otoplasty.

Bleeding – It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood (hematoma). Do not take any aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days before surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Non-prescription “herbs” and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Accumulations of blood under the skin may delay healing and cause scarring.

Infection – Infection is unusual after this type of surgery. Should an infection occur, treatment including antibiotics or additional surgery may be necessary.

Change in skin sensation – Diminished (or loss) of skin sensation in the ear area may not totally resolve after otoplasty surgery.

Ear trauma – Physical injury after the otoplasty procedure would disrupt the results of surgery. Care must be given to protect the ear(s) from injury during the healing process. Additional surgery may be necessary to correct damage.

Skin contour irregularities – Contour irregularities and depressions may occur after otoplasty. Visible and palpable wrinkling of skin and ear cartilage can occur.

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Skin scarring – In rare case, excessive or abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than surrounding skin. There is the possibility of visible marks from sutures used during an otoplasty. Additional treatments including surgery may be necessary to treat abnormal scarring.

Surgical anesthesia – Both local and general anesthesia involve risk. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

Asymmetry - The human face is normally asymmetrical. There can be normal differences between ears in terms of shape and size. There can be a variation from one side to the other in the results obtained from an otoplasty procedure.

Delayed healing – Wound disruption or delayed wound healing is possible. Some areas of the ear may heal abnormally or slowly. Frequent dressing changes or further surgery to remove the non-healed tissue may be required.

Allergic reactions – In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material, or topical preparations have been reported. Systemic reactions, which are more serious, may result from drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment.

Long term effects – Subsequent alternations in ear appearance may occur as the result of aging or other circumstances not related to otoplasty surgery. Due to the resilient nature of ear cartilage, revisionary surgery may be necessary in order to improve the results following otoplasty surgery.

Pain – Very infrequently, chronic pain may occur from nerves trapped in scar tissue after an otoplasty.

Deeper sutures – Some surgical techniques use deep non-absorbable sutures. These items may be noticed by the patient following surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, be visible, or produce irritation that requires removal.

Unsatisfactory result – You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Infrequently, it is necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results.

ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY

Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are particularly associated with otoplasty. Other complications and risks can occur but are even more uncommon. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied on the results that may be obtained.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The cost of surgery involves several charges for the services provided. The total includes fees charged for your procedure, the cost of surgical supplies, anesthesia, laboratory tests, medications covered by your health plan, and outpatient surgery center charges. You will be responsible for necessary co-payments, deductibles, and charges not covered by your health plan. Additional costs may occur should complications develop from the surgery. If the complication is felt to be a health risk, for example an infection or hematoma, treatments required including hospitalization, anaesthesia and/or secondary surgery would be covered under your health plan coverage. In the event of a cosmetic complication

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requiring additional surgery, anaesthesia fees or hospital day-surgery charges involved with revision cosmetic surgery would also be your responsibility.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Services described here are provided on a fee-for-service basis, separate from and not covered under your Health Plan benefits. Clinical services are provided by providers or contractors of the Permanente Medical Groups. The Permanente Medical Groups, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals have a financial interest in the provision of these services. For specific information about your Health Plan benefits please see your *Evidence of Coverage*.

DISCLAIMER

Informed-consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatments(s). The informed-consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, every patient is unique and informed-consent documents should not be considered all inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered when medical care is reasonable and directed at obtaining appropriate results. Your surgeon may provide you with additional or different information which is based on all the facts in your particular case and the state of medical knowledge.

Informed-consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent on the next page.