



**PETER  
CALLAN**

PLASTIC SURGEON

# Otoplasty

## (Prominent ears, bat ears)

### What is it?

Otoplasty is making ears less prominent by bringing them back to a more natural position. The main effect is to give the face a more balanced look because attention is no longer focused on the ears.

### Is Mr Callan experienced at this procedure?

Mr Callan has many years of experience at this procedure. He performs otoplasty regularly and keeps up to date with the latest techniques. As a fully trained plastic surgeon, Mr Callan performs this procedure to the highest standard available.

### Can I see photographs?

You can see photographs of people who have had this procedure when you have your consultation. As Mr Callan performs this procedure frequently, we have a large number of photographs of people who have had the type of otoplasty you may be suitable for.

### Who has otoplasty?

Children aged five and over who want less prominent ears. However, this surgery is also performed on older children and adults.

### Am I or my child suitable?

You need to be sensible and honest about your reasons for wanting rhinoplasty and happy with your informed decision. For children, it is difficult to know whether or not such surgery performed before school begins is beneficial psychologically. The surgery, however, does give them a more harmonious appearance with attention no longer drawn to the ears. For adults, a time of personal crisis is no time to be making decisions about such surgery. What would make me or my child unsuitable for surgery? Smoking, being outside the BMI (body mass index) range of 18-28, under stress when making your decision, or having a medical condition that would make surgery unsafe.

### How is it done?

Mr Callan performs all his surgery at St John of God Hospital in Geelong, a fully accredited hospital. It is done via an incision behind the ears from where the ear is moved back, and occasionally reshaped, to give a more harmonious appearance.

### Will I have scars?

The only incision line is the one behind the ear which is difficult to see, even from behind. Very rarely a thicker scar may form which requires treatment.

### What are the benefits?

What you or your child gets out of surgery is entirely a personal matter. If the appearance of your ears is distressing you or your child's ears is distressing them, otoplasty may be the answer.

### What are the risks?

All surgery carries some element of risk. You can minimise your risk by being as healthy as possible and as psychologically prepared as possible, by selecting an experienced and qualified surgeon, and by giving yourself a stress free time during which to recover. The particular risks and complications of this surgery will be discussed at your first consultation. The most common of these is slight asymmetry which is usually minor and requires no correction. There are other risks common to all surgery and you will be made aware of these.

### How long will I be in hospital for?

Ear surgery is usually done as a day procedure. Someone will need to take you home from hospital and should stay with you the first night. Otoplasty is not a particularly painful procedure for children but adults can be a little uncomfortable for a couple of days as their ears are not as soft as a child's.

### How long will I need to recover?

This ranges from a few days to a week depending on what you do. It's a good idea to take some time out from more strenuous activities so you don't prolong your recovery. The same guidelines apply to exercise, with mild to moderate exercise allowable early on and full aerobic activities after two weeks. You can shower the day after surgery when the dressings come off. You must not drive until you are fully recovered from both the anaesthetic and the discomfort of surgery. If in doubt, don't.

### Will I wear a head dressing after surgery?

The bandage comes off the day after surgery. After that no dressings or bandages are required during the day but a soft headband should be worn at night for two weeks. We will supply you with one if you don't already have one.

### Will I need to be seen after surgery?

Yes. We will keep in close contact with you by telephone for the first few days and then will see you about two weeks after surgery, then at three months. You are of course welcome to call or visit any time with any concerns.