



After Your Child's Otoplasty Surgery

Overview

Congratulations! Your child's otoplasty surgery is now done. With this surgery behind you, I would like to answer a few questions that always seem to come up in the post-operative period. Hopefully, by addressing these things now, I can spare you some worry and allow you to focus on helping your child heal.

Pain Management

There is no way to avoid it. Surgery sometimes hurts. Fortunately, for children and adolescents undergoing otoplasty surgery, post-operative pain is generally treatable with Tylenol only. If you feel that Tylenol is not adequately controlling your child's pain, please contact me so we can discuss strategies for improving your child's pain control. At times, the simple addition of Motrin provides the added help in getting the pain under control.

Surgical Dressing

Following surgery, your child will likely have a bulky, soft dressing to keep the ears covered and protected. This dressing, sometimes called a "turban" or "head wrap," generally will be left in place for the first week after surgery. We will remove this dressing together in the office at your child's first post-operative visit. After dressing removal, I will likely ask that your child wear a soft head band while sleeping at night to help protect the ears as they continue to heal.

Physical Activity

In order to obtain the best possible outcome following surgery, I ask that your child not participate in contact sports or strenuous physical activity for 6 weeks. Light activity and non-contact activity may be resumed approximately 2 weeks after surgery. If you have any questions about whether an activity is appropriate or not, please don't hesitate to call. I would be happy to discuss your specific questions with you.

Fever

Low grade fever in the first few days following surgery is to be expected. In this early time period, fever almost never represents infection. Feel free to treat low grade fevers as you normally would, usually with Tylenol.

Reasons to Call

If your child experiences worsening pain, high fevers, bleeding or any other symptoms that you find concerning, please don't hesitate to call. Although it is extremely rare, sometimes children undergoing otoplasty surgery can develop infections or complications with healing. It is important to me that you feel you can get answers and reassurance when you are worried. If you feel that anything is not right, please call.

Follow-up

I will plan to see your child for routine post-surgery follow-up approximately 1 week after surgery. Please call my office to make this appointment.

How to Contact Us

When you leave the hospital, I will give you my mobile phone number so that you can reach me after hours. I have found that most patients do not call unless they have real concerns, and if you have a concern, I want to hear from you.

For non-urgent questions, you may email me at earl.gage@mercy.net. It may take up to 2 days for me to respond personally by email.

During the daytime hours, you may also call our craniofacial nurse practitioner, DeAnn Wilson, PNP-C, for routine questions or concerns. You may call her directly during normal business hours at 314-251-1858. You may also call our office main line at 314-251-4772.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of caring for your baby!