

# PROMINENT EAR CORRECTION

## Background

Prominent ears are extremely common but unfortunately can cause self-consciousness and teasing in both children and adults. Fortunately surgical correction is possible and can literally have a significant effect, for the better, on a person's character and confidence

## The treatment

This involves an operation to pin back the ears closer to the side of the head. The procedure involves remodeling the cartilage within the ears and shaping the ear so that it is less prominent. Specially-placed, non-dissolvable sutures hold everything in place. The operation is usually performed under a general anaesthetic as a day case procedure.

## The benefits

The psychological benefits of this operation are enormous.

## Duration of Surgery

Surgery usually takes 1.5 – 2 hours to perform

## Complications of Surgery

Unfortunately complications can occur following any surgery and patients need to be fully aware of this. Mr Banwell does his utmost to minimise the complication rate and likes to practise in a safe manner. The commonest complications are bleeding, haematoma formation and the need to return to theatre, infection, numbness, alteration in sensation, asymmetry in the healing and the final result, skin necrosis, delayed healing and secondary procedures.

## After Surgery

Mr Banwell will use a head bandage that will stay in place for 1 week. Thereafter you should use a headband at night for 6 weeks to minimize any damage to the ears whilst sleeping. A dressing check will occur at one week at the hospital where you had your procedure and the sutures in the back of the ears will be trimmed. After this time washing your hair is fine but it is important to dry the ears afterwards with a hairdryer on a gentle setting.

## Recovery

It is important to take things very easy in the first week. Bending and lifting should be avoided. Return to school or work can take place after a week but patients need to be cautious. Ideally sport and exercise should be avoided for 4-6 weeks and contact sports should be avoided for 8 weeks.

## Success and satisfaction

Recovery after this operation is swift and patients are usually very happy with the results

## Important Notice

*Mr Banwell strongly advises you stop smoking prior to surgery as this can affect the outcome of surgery and increase complication rates. Nutritional supplements, anticoagulant medication and blood thinners (eg. aspirin and brufen) all increase the risk of bleeding and should be stopped prior to surgery unless otherwise instructed.*

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## NOTES & QUESTIONS

### AT A GLANCE

**SURGERY TIME**

1.5 - 2 hours

**HOSPITAL STAY**

Daycase / 1 night

**ANAESTHETIC ASSESSMENT**

No

**PRE ADMISSION TESTS**

No

**SLEEPING POSITION**

Sleeping on back recommended for 2 weeks.

**REASONABLY MOBILE**

Immediately

**WASHING**

After dressing removed (1 week)

**DRIVING**

1-2 days

**EXERCISE INCLUDING GYM**

6-8 weeks

**FULL RECOVERY**

8 weeks

**TIME OFF WORK/SCHOOL**

1 week

**BRAS & GARMENTS**

Bandage for 1 week. Headband at night for 6 weeks