**IN OFFICE EAR SURGERY**

Ear surgery is performed with the goal to bring balance and symmetry to the face by creating a natural-looking and proportional ear structure, or to treat and correct a physical defect of the ear structure resulting from injury or genetics.

**What to expect during surgery:**

* Arrive at the office 30 minutes prior to your surgery. If prescribed you may take Ativan at this time 30 minutes prior to surgery. If Ativan is taken you will need a drive home afterwards.
* You will be brought into our in-office procedure room. Dr. Husain will mark the surgical area and an injection of local anesthetic will be used to numb the area. Local anesthetic takes 10-15 minutes to take effect.
* During your ear surgery, Dr. Husain will aim to make a small, discrete incisions within the crease behind the ears, and will use sutures to fold the ear cartilage back to an aesthetically desirable position. The surgery takes on average 45 minutes to one hour.
* After the surgery the area will be cleaned and a dressing will be applied if needed.

**What to expect after surgery:**

* The average post-operative recovery period for ear surgery is 7-10 days.
* Pain medication will be prescribed to minimize any post-procedural soreness or discomfort.
* You may experience some swelling and bruising that will peak two to three days after your ear surgery, and usually subsides within 2-6 weeks.
* You will have a follow-up visit with our nurse Alisha one week after your otoplasty surgery to assess healing and overall results of the surgery.
* You can expect to be able to see visible aesthetic improvements in your ears immediately following your otoplasty. These results should continue to progress over the following weeks, as the incision site heals and the swelling decreases. Swelling can take six weeks to subside.
* See **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS AFTER EAR SURGERY** information page for all post-surgery information.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS AFTER EAR SURGERY**

**WOUND CARE**

* After your surgery you will have dissolving sutures under the skin behind the ear.
* Gauze will be provided in case of small amount of drainage on way home. Because of location of incision applying a dressing to are is difficult.
* Expect to have some swelling, bruising and discomfort after the surgery. Swelling will dissipate over the next 2-3 weeks, bruising may last 1-2 weeks.
* You can take showers the next day. Use your usual soap/shampoo. Avoid rubbing over the incision.
* Be very careful with the use of ice after surgery as the skin will not have normal sensation and you may inadvertently burn your skin.
* USE OF ICE- using ice to help with swelling is not required but if you wish to do so use caution. Do not apply ice directly to the skin, wrap ice pack in a face cloth or towel. Apply ice for 10-20 minutes every couple of hours for the first 2 days after surgery. Do not leave ice on area for long periods of time or fall asleep with the ice pack applied.

**MEDICATIONS**

* Take pain medication as directed by your doctor:
* If pain is mild you may take extra strength Tylenol as needed.
* Do not take products containing Ibuprofen ( Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Aspirin) in place of pain medication.
* If you have stopped medication before your surgery (aspirin, anti-inflammatory drugs, Coumadin, herbal medication, etc.), they can be restarted 1 week after surgery, provided there is no bleeding from your incision.

**ACTIVITY**

* Avoid straining, doing any heavy lifting pushing pulling for 2 weeks while incision heals.
* Avoid wearing hats that may rub or put pressure on back of ears.

**CALL THE OFFICE**

* You will have a 1 week appointment to assess healing. You will then have a 6 week follow up appointment with Dr. Husain to assess final results.
* If there is a problem call our office. For example:
* Your medications do not control pain;
* You are worried about the healing of your incisions;
* You have an allergic reaction to the dressing.