

**Post Operative Instructions
Otoplasty (Ear Repositioning Surgery)**

The goal is to make your surgical experience and recovery as comfortable as possible. Please call us with any questions or concerns.

Please review the following recommendations for postoperative care and the other written and verbal information you have received from your doctor. You play an active and essential role in your recovery process. It is our pleasure to assist you and care for you at any time.

Medications:

You will be prescribed a pain medication (Narcotic), and an antibiotic ointment (Mupirocin 2%).

- IF YOU LIVE ALONE, ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO STAY OVERNIGHT AFTER SURGERY
- DO NOT drive or operate machinery for 24 hours after surgery
- DO NOT drink alcoholic beverages for 24 hours after surgery
- DO NOT make major decisions, sign contracts, etc. for 24 hours after surgery.

Swelling/Discoloration:

After this type of procedure, our ears are usually swollen and may show noticeable bruising. Most swelling usually resolves quickly over 5-7 days, while the discoloration will diminish more gradually over 7-14 days. You may notice that one ear will be slightly more or less swollen than the other – this is normal and is not a cause of concern.

What to Expect:

The feeling of tightness is normal. Your ears will feel numb for several months after your surgery, but the sensation and feeling will return to normal in a few months.

The following are some recommendations directed at relieving discomfort and speeding the recovery process:

1. REST IN BED OR A CHAIR for the first 72 hours following surgery. Be sure to keep your head elevated at a minimum of 45 degrees (2-3 pillows).
2. AVOID HITTING OR BUMPING YOUR FACE AND EARS. It is wise not to pick up small children and you should sleep alone for one week after your operation.

Daniel Calva, M.D.

3. APPLY COLD COMPRESSES. (See “frozen pea packets”) as often as possible for the first 72 hours after surgery. At a minimum 6 times per day for 30 min at a time.
4. AVOID BENDING, STRAINING, HEAVY LIFTING for the first week following surgery. In addition to aggravating swelling, these activities may elevate blood pressure and start bleeding.
5. AVOID EXCESSIVE SMILING OR YAWNING for one week
6. AVOID PHYSICAL EXERCISE for 2 weeks.
7. DO NOT SMOKE AND AVOID ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION for 6 weeks after surgery. Both of these activities can significantly slow the healing process.
8. REPORT ANY SUDDEN SWELLING OR INCREASED DISCOLORATION to Dr. Calva immediately.
9. SLEEP IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION (preferably on your back) by elevating the head of the bed and using extra pillows for at least 1 week following surgery.
10. AVOID STRAINING IN THE BATHROOM. If you need a laxative, we recommend Docusate (your pharmacist will give it to you without a prescription). Proper diet, plenty of water and walking are strongly recommended to avoid constipation.

Nausea rarely occurs following ear repositioning surgery; however, if you should experience nausea, please call us immediately. Anti-nausea medication may need to be prescribed, and although this will provide relief for the nausea, it may cause you to feel drowsy and dizzy.

After surgery you will have a compression headband around your ears that you will NOT TAKE OFF for 1 week after your surgery. The headband will be removed at your first post operative appointment usually in 5-7 days.

Frozen Pea Packs:

Frozen peas (from your grocer), placed in a Ziploc bag provide the simplest and most effective cold compresses to reduce swelling, discoloration and discomfort following surgery. During your waking hours, apply the pea packs to your ears as often as possible for the first 48 hours following surgery, You may continue to use the pea packs as much as you like for up to 7 days after surgery.

Pain:

You may experience a dull ach and tightness in our ears, but it is very unusual to have significant, sharp pain. If cold compresses do not provide sufficient relief from the discomfort associated with your surgery, take extra strength Tylenol according to package directions. Under no circumstances should ASPIRIN, MOTRIN, ALEVE, ETC. and/or any medications containing aspirin or salicylates be taken. If you are not sufficiently relieved of pain, try alternating doses of extra strength Tylenol and the pain

Daniel Calva, M.D.

medication prescribed by your doctor. If you have increasing pain or any “burning” of the ears, please call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately.

Auditory disturbances:

You can expect to have decreased hearing for a few days due to swelling and ointment still present in the ears from surgery. Any progressive or one-sided decrease in hearing call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately.

Cysts:

It is not uncommon for very small, white inclusion cysts to appear near the suture line in the first few weeks to a few months following surgery. These can easily be managed in the office during a postoperative visit.

Temperature:

Generally, the body temperature does not rise much above 100 degrees following a surgical procedure. A rise in temperature is an appropriate part of the healing process. You should check your temperature by mouth three times per day. If you have a persistent fever above 101.5 degrees that is not relieved by Tylenol, call our office.

Bleeding:

If you experience oozing or bleeding along the suture line, do not rub the areas but apply gentle pressure to the area using a sterile gauze pad followed by a cold compress. Pressure and cold compresses should be effective, however, if these measures do not stop any oozing/bleeding, please call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately. IF there is a sudden increase in swelling of one ear, please call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately.

Diet:

Eat light the first 24 hours, clear liquids advancing to a regular diet as tolerated the following day. If you have persistent nausea stick to a bland diet until it subsides. Avoid foods that can cause a lot of gas. This can cause abdominal distention and undue discomfort and likely nausea. Small frequent meals are best. The pain medicine may cause constipation. Drink plenty of fluids. You may take any over the counter laxative as needed.

Some suggestions to ease abdominal discomfort or indigestion after surgery:

1. Drink a lot of water- 8 glasses a day!
2. Drink warm liquids (tea or coffee).
3. Prune juice for constipation.
4. If severely constipated use Colace (2 tabs in a.m. and p.m. taken with one glass of warm water), and fleet enemas (regular or oil retention) as a last resort.

Daily wound care:

Please visit Dr. Dan Calva’s website at www.danielcalva.com for additional information.

- After business hours or weekends – (305) 203-3938
- Dr. Dan Calva’s Cell Phone – (305) 814-9582

Daniel Calva, M.D.

Gentle cleansing of the suture line behind your ears should be done 2 times daily with diluted hydrogen peroxide on a cotton swab. Cleansing will help loosen any crusting or debris that forms. After cleansing, a small amount of Mupirocin 2% ointment should be applied to the suture lines.

Resuming Activities:

1. **WEARING GLASSES AND CONTACT LENSES.** Eyeglasses cannot be worn for 6 weeks. Contact lenses should be worn until your doctor informs you that you may be able to use your eyeglasses.
2. **PERSONAL GROOMING.** In order to improve and speed wound healing, we recommend the following:
 - You may **SHOWER AND WASH YOUR HAIR** with Neutrogena shampoo on the second day after surgery, allowing indirect flow of warm water to wash over the wounds. (Do not let the water directly strike the wound and do not immerse or soak the wound.)
 - You may use a **BLOW DRYER** on cold setting only.
 - You may have your **HAIR WASHED AT A SALON** 4 weeks after your surgery.
 - **FACE MAKEUP** may be used, but avoid the suture lines.
 - **EYE MAKEUP** may be applied
3. **HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES.** On your second postoperative day, you are encouraged to be up and around the house with your usual activities except those specifically outlined previously (no bending, no heavy lifting, etc). No strenuous activity.
4. **PULLOVER CLOTHING.** For 6 weeks following surgery, you should wear clothing that fastens either in the front or back rather than the type that must be pulled over the head. This is to prevent damage to your newly repositioned ear.
5. **AVOID EXERCISE** for 6 weeks following surgery.
6. **REDUCE EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT.** Following surgery you should use a hat for a period of 1 year.
7. **RETURNING TO WORK AND RESUMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.** When you return to work depends on the amount of physical activity and public contact your job involves and also the amount of swelling and discoloration you develop; the average person is ready to return to work or go out socially in 5-7 days following surgery.

Scars:

During the first several days following surgery, the scars will be imperceptible. They then go through a period of slight swelling and reddening, especially at the outer corners. As this subsides, the scars become virtually invisible again. This is the normal maturation process of scars. You will have lumps and irregularities along your incision. Any unevenness of the edges of the incisions or lumpiness of the scars is usually temporary and will subside with the passage of time. It is important to protect your incision from

Daniel Calva, M.D.

sun at all times for a period of one year. Use both hats and sun block (SPF 50) at all times. After your headband is removed on your first post operative visit, a new more comfortable fitting wide sweatband (which you need to purchase), needs to be worn at all times for an additional 4 weeks (both day and night). This is to promote healing of your ear in the new position, and to minimize swelling and scar formation.

Your postoperative office visit:

You will be seen at our office 1 week after your procedure. Sutures are internal, and will dissolve on their own in a period of weeks to months. At your first post op visit, the headband will be removed, and all incisions will be inspected. Following your first post op visit, you will generally be asked to return to the office for follow-up evaluation at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after surgery to make sure everything progresses smoothly. Please arrange your schedule to accommodate these appointments, which we urge you to make immediately following surgery.

Summary:

- Do not be discouraged by swelling and discoloration. These conditions are a normal part of your ear procedure and will subside within 2 weeks.
- Do not be alarmed by the numbness around our ear, the sensation will return in a few months.
- Call our office if you experience:
 - Sudden swelling or increased discoloration
 - Increase in ear pain or any “burning” of the ears call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately
 - Any progressive or one-sided decrease in hearing call Dr. Calva’s cell phone immediately
 - Persistent temperature above 101.5 degrees that is not relieved by Tylenol.

Your recovery and ultimate result is very important to us. Please read this handout carefully and keep it readily accessible as a reference after your surgery.

If you have ANY questions or problems not addressed in this handout, please do not hesitate to contact us at our office at (305) 203-3938 during the day, after normal business hours or on weekends. Dr. Daniel Calva’s cell phone is (305) 814-9582.