

What to do if you have a problem

If you have any of the problems listed below please contact:

Ward 4F on telephone 0151 430 1791

- Excessive pain
- Bandages slipping
- Excessive bleeding
- Offensive smell from wound

Your child will receive a follow up appointment with the consultant. This will be posted out to you.

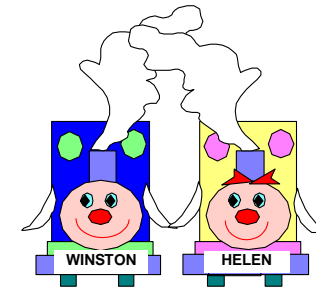
For children who do not live in the St Helens and Knowsley area, an appointment will be made for you at the hospital where you were originally seen.

Further information about
St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals can be
found on the website below:
www.sthk.nhs.uk

This leaflet can be made available in alternative
languages/formats on request

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Correction of Prominent Ears

Patient information leaflet

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road
Prescot L35 5DR

Reason for the procedure

Some children's ears stick out more than normal and are said to be prominent. They **DO NOT** cause physical problems but can make your child 'self conscious'.

Nature of the procedure

Correction of prominent ears is performed under general anaesthetic.

- A cut is made behind the ears, some skin is removed and the cartilage is reshaped to allow it to bend backwards towards the head.
- Stitches are used to hold this new position.
- On return to the ward, your child's ears will be covered by a bandage, to avoid disturbing the ears.
- This operation is usually done as a day-case.

Benefits of the procedure

It is hoped you and your child will be happy with their new appearance.

Risks of the procedure

Every operation carries a risk of complications, but this is very small. These risks will be discussed with you when you sign the consent form. This is your opportunity to ask the surgeon any questions you may have about the operation.

Discomforts of the procedure

There may be some pain following the surgery. This is usually controlled using simple painkillers such as Paracetamol (Calpol). If there is excessive pain or discomfort it may be necessary to have the dressings removed and the ears reviewed by the surgeon.

It is not unusual for there to be a small amount of blood trickling from under the bandages. This should soon stop.

Consequence of not having the procedure

None, it is personal choice. The operation is cosmetic.

After discharge

- It is important to keep the bandages on until you return to the ward for their removal.
- The bandages should not be interfered with and it is best to make sure that your child does not stick their fingers under to try to scratch their ears.
- An appointment will be given for removal of the bandages. This is between **7 and 10 days** after the operation.
- There is usually no pain when the bandages are removed. The stitches are dissolvable, but the nurse may trim them if they are too long.
- Your child may complain of feeling light-headed when the bandages are removed. This will quickly pass.
- There is often bruising and swelling of the ears. This will gradually settle down within a few weeks.
- It is important to protect the ears, especially at night so we recommend a wide headband to be worn over the ears for six weeks when your child goes to bed.
- Once the bandage has been removed your child's hair can be washed. We advise a gentle hair wash, and to avoid rubbing the ears.
- We recommend your child remains off school until the bandages have been removed.
- Your child **MUST** avoid contact sports for at least **8 weeks**.
- Protect your child's ears from the sun as the new scars will be sensitive to sunlight and tend to burn easily.