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**Dr. J. Ben Hengy & Dr. Andrew Mendians**

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**OTOPLASTY ( Ear Surgery)**

An otoplasty is a surgical procedure designed to help reconstruct the external ear. This would involve trimming of cartilage, possible excision of cartilage and long lasting sutures that are placed beneath the skin within the cartilage. The goal of this surgery is to help re-establish a normal appearing ear and also to re-approximate the external ear to the skull. This surgery is generally performed at the hospital under general anesthesia but can also be performed under local anesthesia with IV sedation in our office.

**POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Activity:** The Patient should be on minimal activity for 7 to 10 days after the surgery. This includes no lifting greater than 5 pounds. The Patient may shower and wash hair as discussed with baby shampoo for 1 week after surgery. After surgery, **Do not** sleep on your ears for 3 weeks, wear earrings for 2 weeks, or pull ears forward for any reason.

**Dressing:** Following the surgery ear dressing, including a hard ear shell mold dressing, will be applied to the ear or ears that have undergone the surgery. These will need to be worn around-the-clock for the first seven days after the surgery. Afterwards we recommend then wearing the external ear plastic dressing nightly for four weeks after the surgery.

**Wound Care:** Following the surgery the patient will need to clean behind the ear with half strength peroxide twice a day and apply antibiotic ointment twice a day for the first two weeks. . (If you are allergic to antibiotic ointments please notify the physician so he can prescribe a different ointment.) Sutures will be removed approximately seven to ten days after the surgery.

**Medications:** Medications given after surgery include an antibiotic and pain medication. These should be taken as directed. The pain medication will be taken until the pain and discomfort begins to clear. Once the pain is mild, the patient may switch to Extra Strength Tylenol if they are not allergic. Patient is not to take any blood thinning medications such as aspirin or Motrin for the first week after the surgery.

**Additional Instructions:** Should the patient develop any unusual swelling of the ear, both in front of or behind the ear, any bleeding from the incision site, increasing redness spreading beyond the confines of the ear, purulent drainage and/or fever greater than 101.0 the patient should proceed immediately to the emergency room for evaluation. It is very important to avoid any trauma to the ear(s) following the procedure to prevent any tearing or loosening of the sutures. Please be aware that the patient should not be smoking and should not use any aspirin or Motrin products for at least seven days after the surgery unless otherwise instructed.

231.398.9536 • 1806 E. Parkdale Avenue, Suite 3 • Manistee, MI 49660

231.843.6557 • 5 Atkinson Drive, Suite 305 • Ludington, MI 49431