



Helpful Options for Microtia and Atresia

The Do Nothing Option:

Microtia and Atresia ears are beautiful ears and do not have to be “fixed.” Embrace your ears and be who you are.

Prosthetic Option:

An ear prosthesis is made out of a silicon material and made to look just like a real ear that matches the patient’s skin tone and other ear (if you have unilateral M/A). If the Microtic ear is not removed, a prosthetic ear can also be made to fit around the existing Microtic ear. A prosthetic ear can be attached by using an adhesive/glue, snaps, or by bone anchored magnetic implants. A prosthetic ear is a great interim or permanent option if one does not wish to have surgery or is not ready to have surgery.

Rib Graft Surgical Option:

The rib graft surgical technique utilizes biological tissues from the body (skin grafts and rib cartilage) and has been the gold standard for outer ear reconstruction since the 1920’s. Rib graft surgery requires anywhere from (1) to (4) stages of surgery where three sections of ribs are removed and utilized to create an ear framework. Each stage of surgery requires a three month healing process. The ear is then elevated from the skull providing projection during the final stages of surgery.

Medpor/Omnipor/Su-Por Surgical Option:

The Medpor surgical technique for outer ear reconstructive surgery has been available for the past 25 years (Omnipor and Su-Por are similar materials, but newer to the market). Both, Medpor, Omnipor and Su-Por materials consist of a premade polyethylene framework that can be heated up and molded by the surgeon to match the other ear (if unilateral Microtia). Medpor, Omnipor and Su-Por ears generally require one stage of surgery, maybe a second surgery if needed for smoothing out or tweaking the ear lobe.

Canalplasty/Aural Atresiaplasty Option:

Canalplasty/Atresiaplasty is a surgical technique used to create an ear canal consisting of skin grafts and where the middle ear bones can potentially be restored (if fused or malformed) and replaced by a prosthesis to help restore hearing loss. A CT is required in order to determine candidacy for this procedure with a 6 or higher on the J-scale of 1 to 10.

CAM (Combined Atresia w/Medpor or Su-Por surgical option):

This surgical technique allows for canalplasty or atresia repair to restore hearing and rebuild an ear canal while at the same time reconstructing an outer ear using Medpor, Omnipor or Su-Por material in one surgical stage.

Bone Anchored Hearing Systems:

Individuals with Atresia typically have a conductive hearing loss and can have better quality hearing if given the opportunity to be aided with a bone anchored hearing device. An ABR hearing test can help determine this.

New Technology around the corner:

3D printing is making headlines along with 3D printed regenerated ears! The regenerated ears may still take 15- 20 years for FDA approval.

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