



Spire Children and Young
People's Service

Patient information

Paediatric pinnaplasty

This leaflet provides some standard information and advice about your child's pinnaplasty. However, you should always follow the instructions of your child's consultant.

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask your child's consultant or nurse for more information. It is natural to feel anxious, but knowing what to expect can often help.

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.

	Ward: 01925 215 070
	Main reception: 01925 265 000
	info@spirecheshire.com
	www.spirecheshire.com



Spire
Cheshire Hospital

What is a pinnaplasty?

Pinnaplasty is the name given to the operation to correct prominent ears (pinna). The procedure is done under a general anaesthetic, which means your child will be asleep throughout and not feel any pain.

About the operation

You will be encouraged to stay with your child as far as the anaesthetic room. Once your child is asleep the nurse will escort you back to their room.

The operation involves a cut (incision) being made in the skin on the back of the ear. Broadly speaking, there are 2 techniques used to change the shape of a child's ear cartilage:

- Special stitches in the cartilage to pull and enhance the natural cartilages curves of the ear.
- Cuts made part-way through the cartilage to encourage it to bend into the desired shape.

The choice of technique will depend on surgeon preference. The cut in the skin is usually closed with either dissolvable stitches or a stitch that can easily be removed in the outpatient clinic.

After the operation

Your child will be taken from the operating theatre to the recovery room, where they can wake up from the anaesthetic under close supervision. Once your child begins to wake, the nurse will escort you to collect them and return to their room on the ward.

Once on the ward, the nurse will make your child comfortable and continue to observe them. Your child will need to rest on the bed or on your lap until the effects of the anaesthetic have passed.

The consultant will come to see your child and discuss any findings from the operation and follow up care. Once your child has recovered sufficiently, eaten, drank and passed urine they will be able to go home.

An out-patient appointment will be made for your child to see the consultant, usually a week after the operation, where the head bandage is removed.

You should give your child regular pain relief for the first 24 hours and then as often as it seems to be needed. This will be explained to you before you leave the hospital.

Looking after your child at home

After the operation, your child will have a head bandage on which will need to stay in place for up to one week. The skin under the bandage may feel hot, sweaty and itchy, but try to persuade your child not to scratch or rub as this could damage the ear and prevent it from healing well. You will usually be given a 1 week course of antibiotics to give to your child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the ward on 01925 215 070 or main reception on 01925 265 000.

Spire Cheshire Hospital does not have an accident and emergency department therefore if your concerns are of a serious nature please seek immediate medical attention from your local accident and emergency department.

Keep the head bandage clean and dry, if the bandage falls off before the follow up appointment please contact the hospital.