

## Ear Lobe Surgery

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### About

Cosmetic surgery on ear lobes is a relatively common procedure that may be performed in conjunction with otoplasty (ear reshaping surgery).

Ear lobe surgery can reconstruct a split or torn ear lobe or enhance the appearance of hanging, large or asymmetrical ear lobes. Whatever your reason may be for seeking cosmetic enhancing surgery on your ear lobes our **SFMedica** surgeons will be able to give an answer to your problem offering a variety of surgical and non-surgical solutions.

### Indications

There are a number of reasons why ear lobe surgery may be desired.

- Do you think you have *small creased* ear lobes?
- Does your piercing not fit in any more or your ear lobes have become *stretched out*?
- Do you think you have *large and hanging* ear lobes that make you self-conscious?
- Do you have a *split or torn* ear lobe?
- Are you unhappy with the *size, shape or volume* of your ear lobes?
- Do you think your ear lobes are *asymmetrical or underdeveloped*?

If yes is the answer to any of the above then you may be a good candidate for ear lobe surgery.

### There are a variety of deformities affecting the earlobes:

- Excessively large and hanging ear lobes are a sign of aging and may be a source of embarrassment.
- Alternatively shrunken ear lobes with loss of volume and creasing is also a sign of aging.
- Large earrings that dangle may be caught on clothing or grasped by a child resulting in small to complete tears.
- Pierced or gauged ears may enlarge forming an unsightly slit.
- Allergic reactions to nickel can irritate and weaken a pierced ear causing stretched ear lobes.
- The ear lobe may be deformed after a face lift.
- Congenital deformities such as asymmetry in shape and size or hypoplasia (i.e. underdevelopment or incomplete development of one or both ear lobes).

If any of the above applies to you why don't you book an appointment today with **SFMedica** to discuss how we could improve the appearance of your ear lobes?

## Surgery Explained

Ear lobe repairs are an outpatient procedure, and, provided they are performed by experienced surgeons, an excellent cosmetic result can be achieved. The time taken for the procedure averages 30 minutes.

Aspirin or other blood thinning medication is best avoided a week before the procedure. It is also suggested that the earrings be removed a few days prior to the intended repair to allow small abrasions to heal

The surgical technique used for your ear lobe surgery is dependent on the deformity. However in all cases the surgery can be conducted under local anaesthetic avoiding thus hospitalisation and any potential risk associated with general anaesthesia.

You can return to work or any other non-strenuous activity immediately after the procedure.

### Earlobe reduction

- Earlobe reduction is performed to reduce the overall size of the ear lobe. An incision is designed within the earlobe to reduce it to the desired size.
- The two common types of earlobe reduction are a **curved crescent excision** of skin and fat involving the lower unwanted part of the earlobe, or a **triangular wedge excision**.

### Split earlobe repair

- The procedure is performed to correct a split in the earlobe often caused by trauma associated with wearing heavy earrings for too long or an acute accidental pull on an earring,
- The edges of the split earlobe are fashioned and a meticulous layered wound closure is performed to re-establish a continuous earlobe.

### Gauged and torn earlobe repair

- It is common for the hole of a pierced or gauged ear to either enlarge forming a slit, or to tear through completely as a result of dangling earrings getting caught on clothing.
- In this case ear lobe repair surgery involves a “*Z-plasty*” where two triangular flaps are interdigitated to provide more support to the earring, so that it does not tear through the resulting scar.

### Loss of volume and creasing

As part of ageing process our earlobes lose volume becoming smaller and occasionally unsightly creasing is formed. If that is your main concern then we would recommend the use of dermal fillers such as *Restylane* or *Juvederm Ultra* to volumize the lobe and eliminate creasing. Results are excellent.

## Aftercare

You can return to work or any other non-strenuous activity immediately after the procedure.

Local anaesthesia wears off after a few hours. However most patients do not need pain medication after ear lobe repair.

The wound should be kept dry for 24 hours after the procedure. After that, the wound can be washed with soap and water. A thin layer of antibiotic ointment is the only dressing in most cases.

The wound edges are held together by several very fine non-absorbable stitches which are usually removed between 5-7 days by your surgeon. The repair will leave a hardly visible, flat scar.

The vast majority of our patients are happy with the results and would recommend us to their family and friends.

### **When can I wear earrings after surgery?**

We would recommend you should hold off wearing earrings for at least six weeks after surgery. Heavier ear jewellery should be avoided for at least 3 months after ear lobe surgery

### **Are there any risks?**

Patients should be cautioned about the risks of post-operative bleeding, infection and an unpleasing cosmetic result. However our experienced surgeons will make sure that the risk of any potential complication will be minimised.

People with darker or black skin should also be warned about the possibility of hypertrophic or keloid scarring.

