



**Lowe Plastic Surgery (LPS)**  
**Dr. Lowe's Facts about Ear Tuck Surgery (Otoplasty)**

**Will my ears look better?**

The vast majority of ear tucks are simple skin removals procedures. That is – using the same incisions behind the ears that are common to all techniques. The skin is timidly removed or treated with suture above and below the ear, and a small amount of skin is removed without addressing deeper structures.

This limited technique is popular because it's simple and recovery is very fast. **There is only one problem.** Skin and suture are like taffy and it stretches when pulled and you may not see significant improvement of the long term position of the ear or earlobe. So what do you do? You must accept that the ear deformity is only partially corrected and ear irregularities will persist.

**There is a better way.**

Under the ear skin there a supporting structure that supports the ear called cartilage. This structure holds things in place, but it fail to develop or form properly during development. Unfortunately, this structure often contributes to floppy or prominent ears or earlobes. In order to improve the prominent ear, this cartilage must be cut, re-shaped, and reposition to fully address the deformity. The bad news is that this is a more extensive procedure so you swell longer and have more bruising. Instead of looking better than you started out at two weeks, it will take four to six weeks. You'll feel OK at the end of two weeks, but you won't fool anyone for four to six weeks post-op.

Unfortunately, good ear tuck surgery is like everything else in life. If you want more, you have to put more into it – meaning, you have to be patient in the postoperative period. Sometimes these procedures will require an aggressive tightening of back of the ear or grooves to avoid recurrence. All patients will be required to compress the ear for several weeks to decrease swelling and improve ear position.

**How do I avoid looking “operated” on?**

Getting through your operation safely relies on medical science; the way you look is pure art. Ear surgery performed by different surgeons can be very different. The difference is not merely the price and service, but the approach and artistic skill of your surgeon. The artistic goal is not usually to decrease the size, but to reposition it in a natural way. Some ears need a small bit of tucking while others need to be fully reconstructed. Although the prominent ear can be difficult to address the goal is to provide a subtle result without visible signs of surgery or scars.

Dr. Lowe's goal is to make each patient look good without looking different. He believes that ear tuck surgery should reconstruct the important structures of the ear. The ears should not be the primary focus of a patients face. Improve the regions so patients do not feel self-conscious or ridiculed. His approach is individualized base on the patient's unique features, concerns, and expectations.