



## Ear Surgery Makes World of Difference for Young Girl

### All Services Provided Regardless of the Patients' Ability to Pay

Arizona does not remember when she started noticing that her ears protruded too much, she just remembers that she never pulled her hair back without wearing a headband and has always been self-conscious about her ears.

"People started to make comments a few years ago," said her mom, Stephanie. "We've thought about this surgery for two years. It was a hard decision for us to make. No one wants to think about cosmetic plastic surgery on a young girl."

Arizona's family knew a young boy who had the same surgery at Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Cincinnati, so in addition to talking with them, Stephanie thoroughly researched her options and got second opinions. "We met with several doctors in the area, but knew our best option was with Shriners Hospitals for Children®," said Stephanie.

"Probably no other physical characteristic indicates a need for plastic surgery than protruding ears," said Kevin Yakuboff, MD, FACS, FAAPS, chief of plastics at Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Cincinnati. "Even if the ears are only mildly distorted, protruding ears can lead to self-consciousness and comments from other children."

Dr. Yakuboff, a team of highly skilled pediatric plastic surgeons, and care coordinators are available to meet

with families to discuss successful otoplasty surgery. To schedule an appointment or talk with a care coordinator, call the Cincinnati hospital at 513-872-6240 or e-mail at [helpachild@shrinersnet.org](mailto:helpachild@shrinersnet.org).



### Conditions Treated at the Cincinnati Hospital

#### BURN CARE

- Burn injuries
- Inhalation injuries
- Burn reconstruction & rehabilitation

#### PLASTICS & RECONSTRUCTIVE CONDITIONS

- Congenital ear deformities
- Congenital hairy nevus (large birthmarks)
- Cleft lip and palate
- Brachial plexus injuries (nerve damage affecting upper extremities)
- Congenital hand malformations
- Gynecomastia (abnormal breast development in teenage boys)
- Congenital breast deformities
- Hidradenitis (chronic sweat gland disorder)
- Post trauma deformities (treadmill injuries, dog bites, lawnmower accidents)

#### COMPLEX WOUND & SKIN CONDITIONS

- Purpura Fulminans
- Necrotizing skin infections & Necrotizing Fasciitis
- Stevens-Johnson Syndrome
- Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis
- Port wine stains

### About Ear Surgery

When considering otoplasty, parents must be confident that they have their child's best interest at heart. A positive attitude toward the surgery is an important factor, especially when the patient is a child or adolescent. When it comes to otoplasty, conventional wisdom is the earlier the better. The surgery is relatively simple, as the surgeon makes a small incision behind the ear, in the natural fold where the ear is joined to the head. The surgeon removes the necessary amounts of cartilage and skin required to achieve the right effect for the patient. The risks are minimal to this surgery. There will be a thin white scar behind the ear after healing. Children are generally seen once prior to surgery by the medical team in Cincinnati. Surgery can be scheduled often within 8-12 weeks after the first appointment. After surgery, patients are seen in 7-10 days with one or two follow-up visits after the first post-op visit.

Ear surgery makes it possible to correct a flaw that can often undermine one's self-confidence. By changing how you look, this surgery can help change how you feel about yourself.