

General Commissioning Policy

Treatment	Pinnaplasty / Otoplasty
For the treatment of	Prominent ears
Background	<p>NHS Hull CCG is responsible for commissioning activity in secondary care, and this policy sets out the referral criteria for</p> <p>These procedures are deemed as cosmetic and are not routinely commissioned by NHS Hull CCG. Requests are thus currently considered via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process.</p>
Commissioning position	<p>Not commissioned</p> <p>NHS Hull CCG does not routinely commission the surgical correction of 'bat ears' for purely cosmetic reasons, but may consider cases where there are exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Commissioned</p> <p>To be eligible for consideration by the IFR Panel, ALL the following criteria must apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient must be 5 or more but under the age of 19 years at the time of referral. • The child, rather than the parent alone, expresses concern about the prominent ears. • There is independent evidence from a health professional or a teacher that the child's health and wellbeing is being severely adversely affected despite all reasonable steps being taken to address the issues (eg. dealing with bullying). <p>Patients seeking pinnaplasty should be seen by a plastic surgeon and following assessment, if there is any concern, assessed by a psychologist.</p> <p>For individuals aged 19 years and over, the IFR request must demonstrate a clear clinical need for the surgery, as pinnaplasty will not be commissioned in adults for purely cosmetic reasons.</p>
Effective from	February 2016
Summary of evidence / rationale	<p>Ears are one of the first parts of the body to reach full size, which is why protruding ears can be more noticeable in children. Prominent ears may affect up to 5% of children.</p> <p>Prominent ears may lead to significant psychosocial dysfunction for children and adolescents and impact on the education of young children as a result of teasing and truancy. The national service framework for children defines childhood as ending at 19 years.</p> <p>Some patients are only able to seek correction once they are in control of their own healthcare decisions. Children under the age of five rarely experience teasing and referrals may reflect concerns expressed by the parents rather than the child. (1)</p> <p>The premise for otoplasty being performed exclusively on children in the NHS is based on motivational factors, children being motivated by psychosocial factors where the majority of adults are motivated by the need</p>

	<p>to change their appearance. (2)</p> <p>This was demonstrated in a retrospective study by Horlock et al (3) where teasing was the motivational factor for 88% of the children whereas the main reason for surgery in the adult group (73%) was dissatisfaction with their appearance. Strong support for this was demonstrated by Cooper-Hobson (4) where 101 children between the ages of 5 – 16 were sent questionnaires to evaluate their experiences of undergoing otoplasty. The study found that there was an increase in happiness of 97%, self-confidence in 92% and, significantly, 100% reported that bullying had reduced or stopped.</p>
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Review Date	February 2018
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References:

- 1 Information for Commissioners of Plastic Surgery Services - Referrals and Guidelines in Plastic Surgery (NHS Modernisation Agency) London
<http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf>
- 2 ENTUK position paper Otoplasty 2010
http://www.entuk.org/position_papers/documents/otoplasty
- 3 Horlock et al (2005) Psychosocial outcome of patients after ear reconstruction: a retrospective study of 62 patients. Ann Plastic Surgery May 2005 54; (5): 517-24.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15838214>
- 4 Cooper-Hobson & Jaffe (2009) The benefits of otoplasty for children. Further evidence to satisfy the modern NHS. J Plas Reconstr Surg Feb 2009 62; (2): 190-4.
[http://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815\(07\)00478-0/abstract](http://www.jprasurg.com/article/S1748-6815(07)00478-0/abstract)