



ears

elegant ears

The aesthetic importance of ears can't be underestimated according to Sydney cosmetic surgeon **Dr Longin Zurek**. Tara Casey reports.

The earlobes represent an important cosmetic unit and are considered the aesthetic cornerstones of the face. Earlobes are considered to be pleasing or good looking when they are not obvious, being elegant and a proportional size and shape.

Earlobe shape can be classified into three basic outlines and attachments:

- round (non attached or 'dangling')
- squarish (partially attached)
- triangular (attached)

Earlobe size:

Studies show that the lobe is the only structure of the ear that changes with ageing by becoming progressively elongated in both sexes, possibly more so in men than women. There is considerable variation in the size of the earlobes. In the majority of people the earlobe represents between 20-35 percent of total ear height, the average being 29 percent. It is interesting to note that Michaelangelo's famous sculpture of David has a 29 percent ratio of the

height of the lobule to the total height of his ear.

In traditional Chinese culture large earlobes were considered a sign of wisdom although currently big earlobes are considered undesirable.

There are two common earlobe distortions which can be corrected by surgery:

- 1) Pixie earlobe, which is an attached earlobe pulled-downwards. This condition can be congenital or it may be caused by a facelift
- 2) Big earlobes (megalobule)

Pixie earlobes can be corrected by a number of different procedures. Sydney cosmetic surgeon Dr Longin Zurek is often able to correct this distortion with his Modified S-Lift (SAFE) procedure.

Big earlobes can be corrected by excision of a wedge from the earlobe or by simply trimming the edge of the earlobe. There are many variations, however Dr Zurek's preferred technique is the double wedge excision which he learned from Professor Jury of Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to Dr Zurek, this procedure is very successful in improving the aesthetic appearances of the ears. **acsm**



BEFORE



AFTER correction of the big earlobe by Dr Zurek