



ears

SCARLESS EAR CORRECTION

SYDNEY COSMETIC SURGEON **DR LONGIN ZUREK** SAYS A RELATIVELY SIMPLE PROCEDURE CAN CORRECT PROTRUDING EARS AND IMPROVE SELF-CONFIDENCE. TARA CASEY REPORTS.

Prominent or protruding ears are one of the most common congenital deformities in the head and neck region, affecting around one in 20 people. For many, the condition can result in a significant aesthetic and psychological handicap.

Ears that are out of proportion with the rest of the face can draw too much attention, marring the appearance of other, more attractive facial features. Many people with protruding ears often learn to hide them from a young age, be it with a hat or hairstyles, to avoid unkind remarks, particularly in the school playground. And while most children with prominent ears grow into well-adjusted adults, few would say they are glad it happened. That's when ear surgery, or otoplasty, can help.

There are many causes of protruding ears, including genetics or birth defects. Many infants are born with prominent ears and while some will develop normal ears after birth, others will not.

A relatively simple cosmetic procedure can both correct prominent ears and help restore self-confidence.

'Surgical correction of prominent ears was first reported in the 19th century and since then over 200 techniques have been published,' says Sydney cosmetic surgeon Dr Longin Zurek.

The majority of procedures are based on removal of skin from behind the ear, weakening of the cartilage, incision of the cartilage or excision of the cartilage, but it's now possible to correct prominent ears without making any incisions at all.

'In recent years, minimally invasive surgery has become increasingly popular as it has proved beneficial to both the patient and surgeon,' says Dr Zurek.

'Approximately 15 years ago, the need for cutting of the cartilage and removal of skin from the ear was challenged, leading

to the development of minimally invasive otoplasty without any incisions.'

Pleasing and long-lasting results have been achieved with this technique. Dr Zurek says patients appreciate the relative simplicity of the procedure: no dressings, minimal swelling and discomfort, as well as a short downtime in typical cases. **acsm**



BEFORE



AFTER ear correction without incision by Dr Zurek



BEFORE



AFTER ear correction without incision by Dr Zurek