

Office Based Pediatric Otoplasty Under Local Anesthesia

Background: Many parents seek otoplasty for their school age children but fear having to undergo general anesthesia. In our experience, otoplasty can safely be performed in an outpatient office based setting under local anesthesia. Although the benefits of outpatient otoplasty have been well documented for adults, there is a notable gap in the literature regarding outpatient pediatric otoplasty under local anesthesia.

Methods: All pediatric patients who underwent outpatient otoplasty under local anesthesia without sedation, between 2017 and 2021 were included in a retrospective review. Patient demographics, operative techniques, complications, recurrences, and re-operation rates were collected.

Results: 20 patients, 12 male and eight female, with a mean age of nine years (ranging 5-18) underwent otoplasty. 18 patients underwent bilateral otoplasty, totaling to a sample size of 38 ears. All patients had congenitally prominent ears. No patients had significant past craniofacial pathologies or syndromes. No patients experienced any skin discoloration, epidermolysis, cyanosis, chondritis, dehiscence, infection, asymmetry, or recurrence of prominence. Two patients had minor conchal bowl hematomas that were aspirated, each retrieving less than 1 cc of blood. All patients and parents were satisfied with the results, and no revisions were necessary.

Conclusion: Outpatient pediatric otoplasty under local anesthesia is a safe and effective treatment method for patients as young as five years of age.