Prominent Ears: Evolution of a Surgical Technique

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Abstract. The prominent ear must always be seen as an aesthetic unity made up of a large number of anatomic details so that a natural and not a surgically corrected result is obtained. To achieve this goal no standard techniques should be used. Each anatomic detail must be treated in each ear.

Key words: Ears — Prominent ears — Protruding ears — Lop ears — Ear correction

Introduction

The anatomy of the structures to be modified, the surgical risk and possible complications, the psychological aspects, and the benefits of the results must be weighted very carefully before aesthetic surgery. This evaluation allows for careful and detailed planning, reducing to a minimum any unforeseen incidents. A critical analysis of the results will perfect details of the surgical technique, always bearing in mind the ultimate, unattainable goal—perfection.

In the case of prominent ears, the ear has to be considered as an indivisible aesthetic unity made up of numerous anatomical details. If only one aspect is taken into consideration such as, for instance, the presence or absence of the antihelix or the opening of the cephaloconchal angle, unfavorable results might be obtained.

The recent literature introduces a series of improvements of corrective surgery for prominent ears and each detail shall be analyzed in view of the personal experience gained since my last publications [9, 10].
Fig. 1. Drawing of the technique: landmarks on the concha; resection of auricular muscle and concha; treatment of the antihelix by grafting the cartilage removed from the concha, fixed with sutures; fixation of the ear to the periosteum of the mastoid area