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Modified Incisionless Otoplasty

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An incision of 3mm is made in the lower third portion of the auricle, following the helix rim, where the pincer and rasps are introduced. Using a peeler to undermine the skin and perichondrium, and separate the anterior antihelix cartilage. The area is then scraped with a rasp to partially remove the anterior antihelix cartilage. A 2mm incision entry in the frontal antihelix fossa (scaphoid fossa). 

The anterior scoring minimal incision technique is based on a work by Panfilov. Anterior antihelix cartilage is weakened by a gentle scoring of the anterior folding. Therefore, a new formed anterior fold can be achieved without tension. The newly formed antihelix is fixed in the defined position with anterior transcutaneous 4/0 nylon sutures.

The anterior approach begins with infiltration of lidocaine 2% and ephedrine 1:100,000 on only the anterior portion of the auricular pavilion.

Conclusion

The introduction of this modified anterior minimal incision and scoring procedure with a simple transcutaneous mattress suture for the correction of prominent ears provides permanent results. This technique also minimizes operation time to a 25-30 minute procedure with local anesthesia and minimal complications. This is a simple procedure to learn, with natural and permanent results. Post-operative complications were protrusion of sutures in two ears or recurrence in one ear (repeated surgery).

No anterior skin necrosis, no visible irregularity of the anterior surface of the cartilage, no keloid, no infection, no hypertrophic scarring and no hematoma occurred – these are common complications on conventional posterior surgery techniques.

We recommend this technique for the routine correction of prominent ears with a poorly formed antihelical fold or deep concha bowl that will provide permanent and natural results. Numerous techniques have been described for the resolution of prominent ears and all have advantages and disadvantages. In our experience, minimizing trauma to the cartilage structure leads to good and natural cosmetic results and fewer complications.

References


