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# Congenital Ear Differences

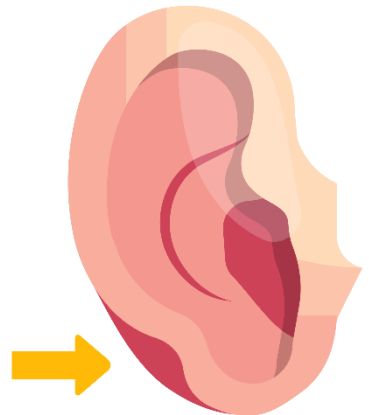


## What are congenital ear differences?

It is the result of errors during the embryonic development of the fetus's auricular cartilage during the fifth to ninth weeks of pregnancy, which affects the normal growth of the ear.

They can be divided into two separate categories:

- Defects that occur early in fetus development  
(Such as microtia, hearing loss and cryptotia )
- Deformities that occur usually occur late in development and are related to external pressure.  
(Such as low set ear, cupped ear, prominent ears)



## What are congenital ear differences?

Because the human ear has important aesthetic and cultural values, external ear abnormalities can significantly impact a child's ability to communicate socially. As a result, a coordinated, experienced team is essential in order to treat these conditions appropriately.



# What are the types of congenital ear differences?

## 1. Incomplete formation of the external Ear (Microtia):



In these cases, the ear may be undeveloped or partially formed, and it usually affects males more than females, and is usually on one side. It may be associated by hearing loss, so in these cases it is necessary to ensure the presence of the middle ear and the child's ability to hear immediately after birth.

# What are the types of congenital ear differences?

1. Incomplete formation of the external Ear (Microtia):



Genetic factors

Pregnancy after aging



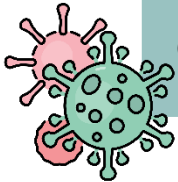
Gestational diabetes

Malnutrition during pregnancy and vitamin deficiency



Viral infections during pregnancy

The mother taking medications during pregnancy



# What are the types of congenital ear differences?

1. Incomplete formation of the external Ear (Microtia):

Treatment ways include:

The child's hearing ability must be confirmed so the ear doctors perform a hearing test and a CT scan.

In case of hearing problems, ear doctors treat them using external hearing aids or cochlear implants, depending on the case.

Ear restoration methods:

- ❖ **Artificial cartilage implantation:** The operation can be performed when the child reaches the age of 5 years.

# What are the types of congenital ear differences?

1. Incomplete formation of the external Ear (Microtia):

Ear restoration methods:

- ❖ Using cartilage from the rib cage to form the ear: The operation is performed when the child reaches the age of 10 years and is done in several stages.
- ❖ Using an artificial ear.

## What are the types of congenital ear differences?

### 2. Prominent ear:

It is called when the ears are protruded, which the child may be born with, and it may be the result of an injury to the ear. Prominent ears do not cause any harm to the function of the ear, but they affect the child's psychological state, because their shape is not appropriate for the shape of the face.

It is important to note that the need to correct the infant's prominent ear is primarily cosmetic, but it is very important to maintain the child's psychological health, because without correcting the prominent ear, the child will feel very embarrassed and lack self-confidence, in addition to his unwillingness to engage in many activities.



## How can prominent ears be treated and when?

It is treated surgically, using permanent sutures to return the ear to its proper place. This procedure is performed after the age of 5 years.

The procedure can be performed under local or general anesthesia depending on the patient's age and cooperation with the plastic surgeon.





**Notes:**

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### Sources and References:

All illustrations from Canva.com

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### Review and Proofreading:

The content of this booklet was reviewed by plastic surgery department consultants at King Fahd University Hospital.

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**IAU-24-574**



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