Pinnaplasty

Policy

NHS NWL will fund pinnaplasty only in exceptional circumstances through the individual funding request (IFR) route for children less than 18 years with prominent ears where the child, rather than parents alone, express concern.

Background

Otoplasty (pinnaplasty) is a procedure designed to realign the normal anatomical features of the ear (pinna) into a more aesthetically pleasing form for people with prominent ears. There are different techniques available to effect this change.

Evidence Base

The evidence shows that different surgical techniques employed in pinnaplasty produce positive outcomes. Pinnaplasty (otoplasty) is an effective procedure in alleviating psychosocial distress in the vast majority of children that undergo the operation on the NHS for children with prominent ears.

The NHS Modernization Agency instituted an ‘Action on Plastic Surgery’, guide which justifies the use of surgery for pinnaplasty because “prominent ears may lead to significant psychosocial dysfunction for children and adolescents and impact on the education of young children as a result of teasing and truancy”.

References

Patient Information leaflet: http://www.cks.nhs.uk/patient_information_leaflet/ear_reshaping

References:


2. Leclere FM, Petropoulos I, Mordon S, Laser-assisted cartilage reshaping (LACR) for treating ear protrusions: a clinical study in 24 patients, Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, April 2010, vol./is. 34/2(141-6), 0364-216X;1432-5241 (2010 Apr)
