



AURICULAR PROSTHETICS

An Option for Treating Microtia

Advantages of Prosthetic Restoration

- More natural appearance
- Less surgical intervention
- Created to match companion ear
- Allows one to wear glasses and hearing aids
- Most importantly, directly impacts the hearing process

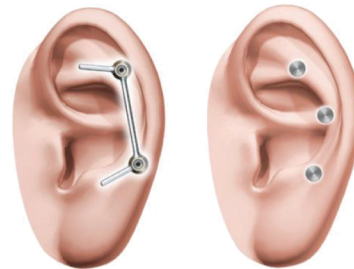


Disadvantages of Prosthetic Restoration

- Prosthesis must be replaced annually due to normal wear-and-tear.
- If a microtia ear is removed to allow for a prosthesis, the option for auricular reconstruction is eliminated
- Re-making the prosthesis will be a lifelong need
- Prosthesis may not be able to be worn all the time depending on the activity and the method of retention used

Methods of Retention for a Prosthetic Ear

- Using the remnant a person's ear whether due to a congenital condition or due to a surgeon's decision to leave a portion of the ear
- Adhesives of various types
- Magnets or clips on the prosthesis that snap on to bone-anchored implants



Using Bone-Anchored Implants

- Titanium implants have been in use for decades with excellent tolerance
- In Europe, 98% of all of patients in need of an ear prostheses use implants for prosthetic retention
- Convenient to have implants placed at the time the ear or ear remnants are surgically removed
- Excellent retention of the prosthetic ear for most activities