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National Microtia Awareness Day

November 9, 2023

Facts About Microtia

- Microtia is an underdeveloped outer ear from birth and commonly co-occurs with aural atresia, which is an underdeveloped or absent external auditory ear canal.
- There are multiple grades of microtia corresponding with development of the outer ear, from minor size differences to complete absence of the outer ear.
- Microtia can affect one or both ears.
- Approximately 1 in every 3800 babies is born with microtia annually.
- In some cases, surgery may be an option for medical management of microtia.

Microtia & Hearing

- Microtia and/or aural atresia commonly affect hearing and require ongoing care/support from otolaryngologists (ENTs) and audiologists.
- With microtia/aural atresia, hearing loss is usually conductive in nature, meaning that the inner ear/hearing organ is often unaffected.
- Audiologists work with patients to determine the best recommendation for management of hearing loss due to microtia/aural atresia.
- Patients with microtia/aural atresia and hearing loss are often fit with a bone anchored hearing device.

Microtia I Microtia II Microtia III Microtia IV or Anotia ▶ Ear is small ▶ Ear consists of a vertical Ear is small Most extreme and rarest Ear canal may be Some components are mass of soft tissue and missing All external ear structures narrowed cartilage Typically associated with Structures and ear shape Shape is markedly are absent atresia of the external are otherwise normal abnormal Ear is still recognizable Microtia IV or Anotia Microtia II Microtia III Microtia I 017.21 Q17.22 017.23 Q16.0

What is a Bone Anchored Hearing Device (BAHD)?

- BAHDs are hearing devices that transmit sound to the inner ear through bone vibration.
- For patients under 5 years old, BAHDs are most often worn on a soft headband.
- For patients over the age of 5 years, a surgically implanted BAHD is an option.



