



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.

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.

