



What is Microtia/Atresia?

Microtia is when the outer part of the ear does not fully form. The outer ear is made up of cartilage and skin and gives the ear its shape.

There are 4 types of microtia:

- Type 1 - Smaller than usual ear with most parts of the typical ear.
- Type 2 - Ear has some features of a typical outer ear with a smaller than usual top portion.
- Type 3 - Ear has small amount of cartilage and skin, but no recognizable ear.
- Type 4 - Outer ear is missing (also called anotia).

Atresia is when there is no ear canal (opening to the ear).

Microtia and atresia are seen at birth and can cause hearing loss. They can also be found in children with other health problems. Doctors will check for these by doing a physical exam and other tests.

Next Steps

A physical examination by the baby's primary care provider should be done and a referral placed for other required tests of specialty care.

A hearing test called an auditory brainstem response (ABR) should be done by a pediatric audiologist by 1 month of age. This is true even if the newborn passed their hearing screen.

The ABR test will help determine type and degree of hearing loss. The audiologist will discuss next steps and options with families.

A consult with an otolaryngologist, also known as ENT (ear, nose, and throat) doctor can help to:

- Check the ear canal to see if it is present or not or if there is stenosis (narrowing).
- Check if there are other health problems (such as a genetic problem) present.
- Discuss possible surgical options.
- Determine if a craniofacial (head and face) specialist should be seen.

Amplification (hearing devices) to help the child hear can begin right away. Amplification may not be an option for every child. The audiologist and ENT doctors can discuss the best options for each child.

Parental Education and Support

Ear Community

<https://earcommunity.org/>

Minnesota Help Me Grow

<https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/Refer/index.html>

Minnesota Children and Youth with Special Health Needs

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childrenyouth/cyshn>

Minnesota Department of Health Microtia Facts

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/cy/anotia.html>