

## Preface

## Plastic and reconstructive surgery of the ear



Nabil I. Elsahy  
*Guest Editor*

To do plastic and reconstructive surgery of the ear, the surgeon must have a great sense of art and a large amount of knowledge. The art is essential to sculpt the ear with its exact size and contour, and its proper position and protrusion. While the knowledge is essential to recognize the different methods necessary to move healthy tissue of the ear from one place to another and keep it viable. This is the reason that an ear reconstruction represents an extremely challenging problem to the surgeon. With the recent advances in surgery, reconstruction of the ear is slowly but surely gaining attention. Accurate analysis and diagnosis of the factors contributing to ear deformity is essential to tailor the suitable method of management, since the first attempt in ear reconstruction is often the best chance of obtaining an optimal result.

The purpose of this issue is to explain many of the most commonly used methods for ear reconstruction, and to describe the procedures that have proven to be most practical and successful with good, long lasting results.

Due to the huge amounts of literature written on the methods of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery of the ear, I have found that summarizing these methods in drawing will give the reader a quick and easy visual reference to each technique without going into the written details, which is quite often

redundant (a picture is worth a thousand words). The advantages and disadvantages of each technique has been described as noticed by the contributors, by myself and by many other authors.

Surgical complications are an important obstacle to achieve good ear reconstruction, and we have shared our experience with that problem in this issue. The contents has been divided into two main parts. I. reconstructive surgery that deals with post traumatic, post inflammatory, and post malignant deformities of the ears; and II. plastic surgery that deals with cosmetic deformities of the ears, which is mostly congenital in nature.

I thank the contributing authors for their willingness to help in this venture and for the way in which they accepted requests and suggestions to keep the book unified in its objective.

Nabil I. Elsahy  
*Former Director  
Cosmetic & Plastic Surgicenter of South Atlanta  
6524 Professional Place  
Riverdale, GA 30274, USA*

Current Address: *8 Elsad Elali Sr.  
Dokki, Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-338-4503; fax: +202-761-9133*