

*Tuesday, February 24, 8:00AM-12:00PM
Plenary Session*

Here's Looking at You: Defects of the Head and Neck

Moderator: Angela Lin, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Anotia/Microtia

Angela Scheuerle, Tesseract Genetics, Dallas, Texas

There are formal definitions of microtia that divide it into four classes, but from a patient's point of view there are only two: bothersome and not bothersome. Ear anomalies range from the amusingly odd to the profoundly impairing and can be structural, functional or both. In some ways, treating the structural abnormality is more difficult than addressing abnormal function because of how visible the ears are to the causal observer. Options for treatment vary depending upon severity from mild reconstruction to prosthesis or implant. Treatment for hearing impairment is aimed at the level of abnormality, conductive, sensory or both. Advances in technology have reduced the percentage of people with truly untreatable hearing loss. Microtia is often an isolated condition, being considered the mild end of oculo-auricular-vertebral spectrum. This and other syndromes include microtia as a significant component. Syndromic presentation will modify the treatment approach to anotia/microtia, though individualized management is the rule rather than the exception.