

Dear Ms. Op de Hipt,

Sorry that we have not been in touch for a long time, but we've been very busy in the shop over the Christmas period and I just didn't have the time to report back to you, but I can do that now.

Luca's ears have healed very well and there have been absolutely no problems. He doesn't even complain about pain when he bumps his ear really hard.

I'd like to tell you and Dr. Merck about a few positive things that have happened since the operation. Luca has been playing handball since the summer of 2005. At the beginning I was concerned about his ears and whether it was too soon after the operation, but there was absolutely no problem. Two weeks after the operation he was able to do somersaults again. At the first handball tournament Luca was the goalkeeper, and of course a ball hit him right on his ear. I thought that was the end! But nothing really happened and he said it didn't hurt, although that was only five weeks after the operation.



Between Christmas and Epiphany Luca's kindergarten was closed so we had him in the shop. A lot of customers have known him since he was a baby and had not seen him for a long time because he's normally at kindergarten. When they saw him, they were very surprised how much he had changed. Everyone agreed that he looked great and that it was the right thing to do.

Also our relatives who first saw him at Christmas were surprised. When they asked us how it went, we were able to say: Absolutely fantastic! My cousin, who is a nurse in a clinic in Bayreuth, was completely surprised that she could not see any scars, since she has seen a lot of ears after otoplasty.

We had a wonderful experience with our pediatrician. Luca had a preventive medical checkup with a doctor who has known him since birth. We hadn't told him anything about the operation – you can imagine what his reaction was like: his jaw dropped and his eyes were as big as saucers. He examined Luca's ears thoroughly and he said he'd never seen such good work in his entire career (25 years!). So, Dr. Merck, this compliment is for you alone. We gave the pediatrician your internet address, because there were a few more children he wanted to recommend this method to.

Last week a woman from Berlin called us and asked us about the operation and the time afterwards. We think it is great to talk to parents who have the same problem we had. This woman talked to my husband. Unfortunately, I was not at home, but they must have had a really nice long chat. She herself had had otoplasty with the usual method and must have had enormous pain afterwards. I can only hope she opts for the stitch method. My husband really tried to recommend your method to her.

I have found some more pictures from Easter 2005 (before the operation) but of course I also want to show you the latest ones. Perhaps you could use these pictures in your forum.

Best regards,

Manuela Schrempf
with husband
and of course Luca
(More pictures to follow)