

Facelift scars

When considering a facelift, one of the most common questions patients ask is, “What will the scars look like?” The answer is nuanced—modern techniques aim to make scars nearly invisible, but individual outcomes can vary.

The incision often begins within the hairline near the temples.

It continues downward, hugging the natural contours of the ear. From the earlobe, the incision curves around and extends behind the ear into the adjacent hairline. This provides access to lift and tighten the skin and underlying tissues.





Markings for Face Neck lift incisions
A narrow strip of hair has been shaved



Face Neck Incisions . Appearance
immediately
after closure with fine non dissolvable
stitches



Appearance immediately after
completion of Face Neck lift



6 months later

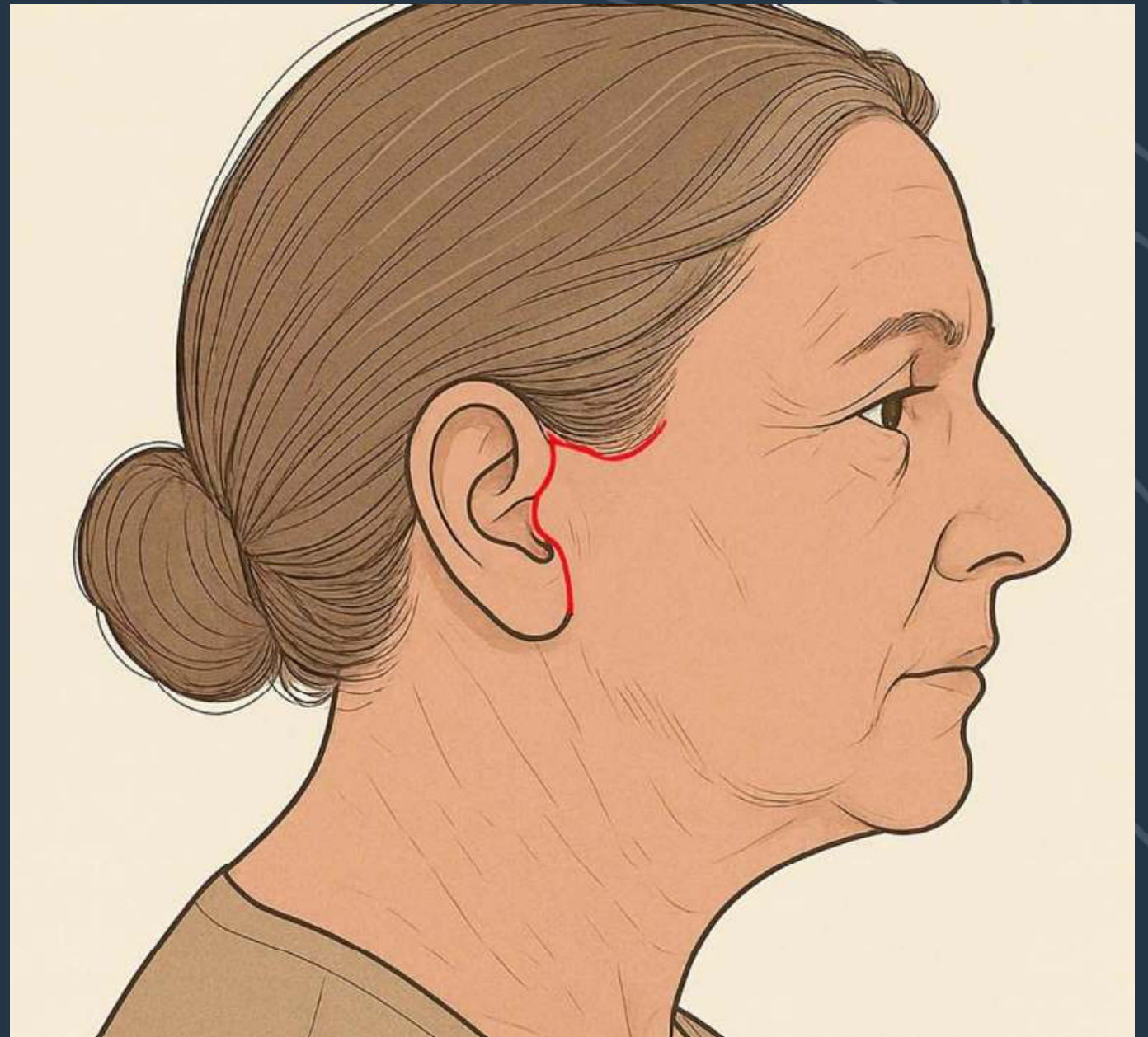


No significant alteration to the hairline or the shape-level of the earlobe. The scar is so minimal that patients feel confident wearing their hair back



Typical incision for the short scar facelift begins in the temporal hairline, just above or at the top of the ear, often curved or gently broken to mimic natural hairline contours.

Then, it follows the natural ear crease tracking around the tragus (either in front or behind) and it ends at the lobe or just behind it.



An incision for a short scar face lift



Appearance immediately after closure with fine non dissolvable stitches



With proper surgical technique a skilled surgeon can minimize tension on the wound edges and place incisions in natural creases or hairlines to make scars less noticeable.

Here are some examples



Short scar face lift



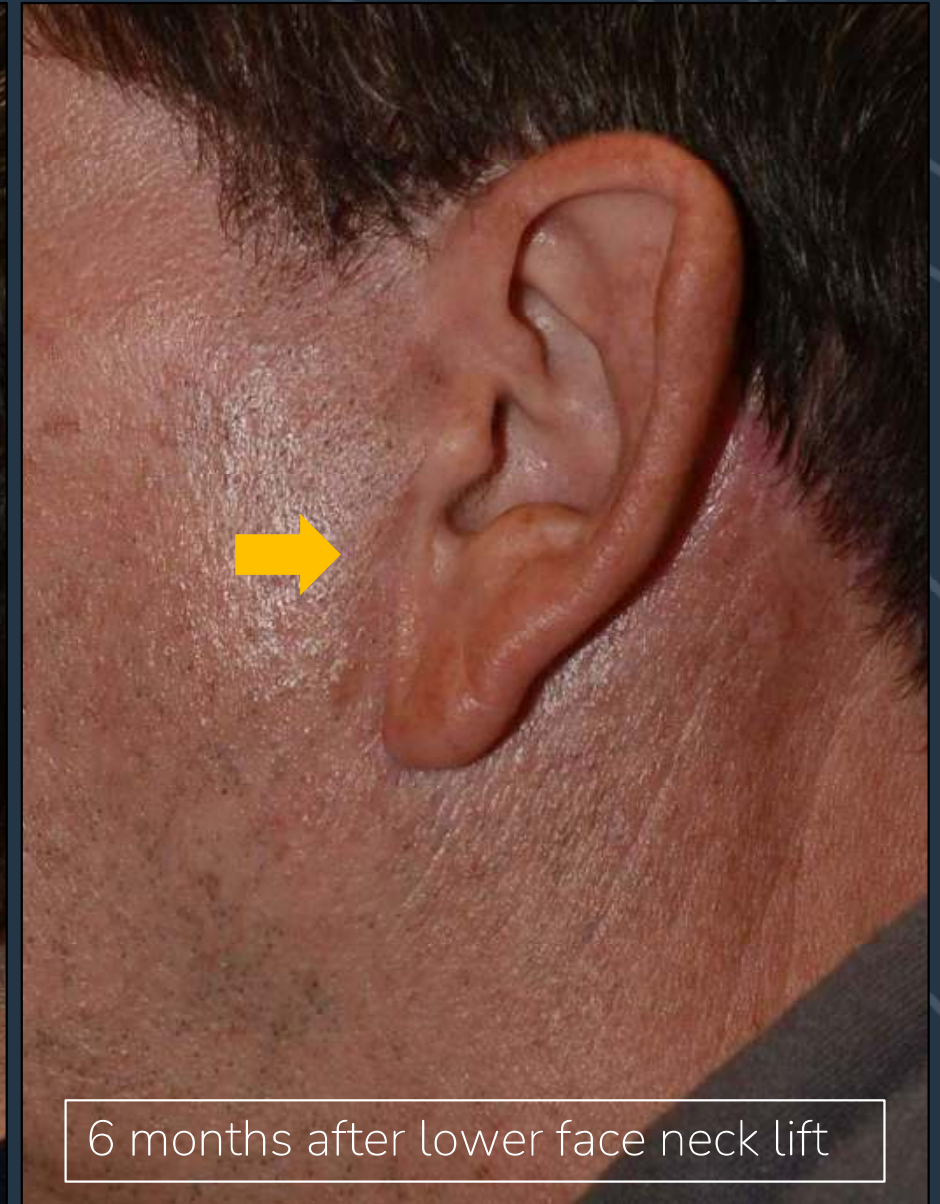


Face Neck Lift incorporating ear lobe reduction : Appearance following closure and 6 months later

Male facelifts do present unique challenges.

The proximity of hair-bearing skin to the ear means that surgeons need to be particularly careful with incision placement to avoid noticeable scars and maintain a natural look.

Males typically
have facial hair
or sideburns
that may be
shifted closer to
the ears
following
surgery



Careful planning of
male facelift
incision lines can
Minimise
noticeable shifts in
hair bearing areas



Scar at 6 months

Another consideration in technique is whether placing the incision behind or in front of the tragus affects the visibility of facelift scars near the front of the ear.



The Tragus is an important aesthetic landmark. It is often adorned with tiny tragus studs or hoops.



In front



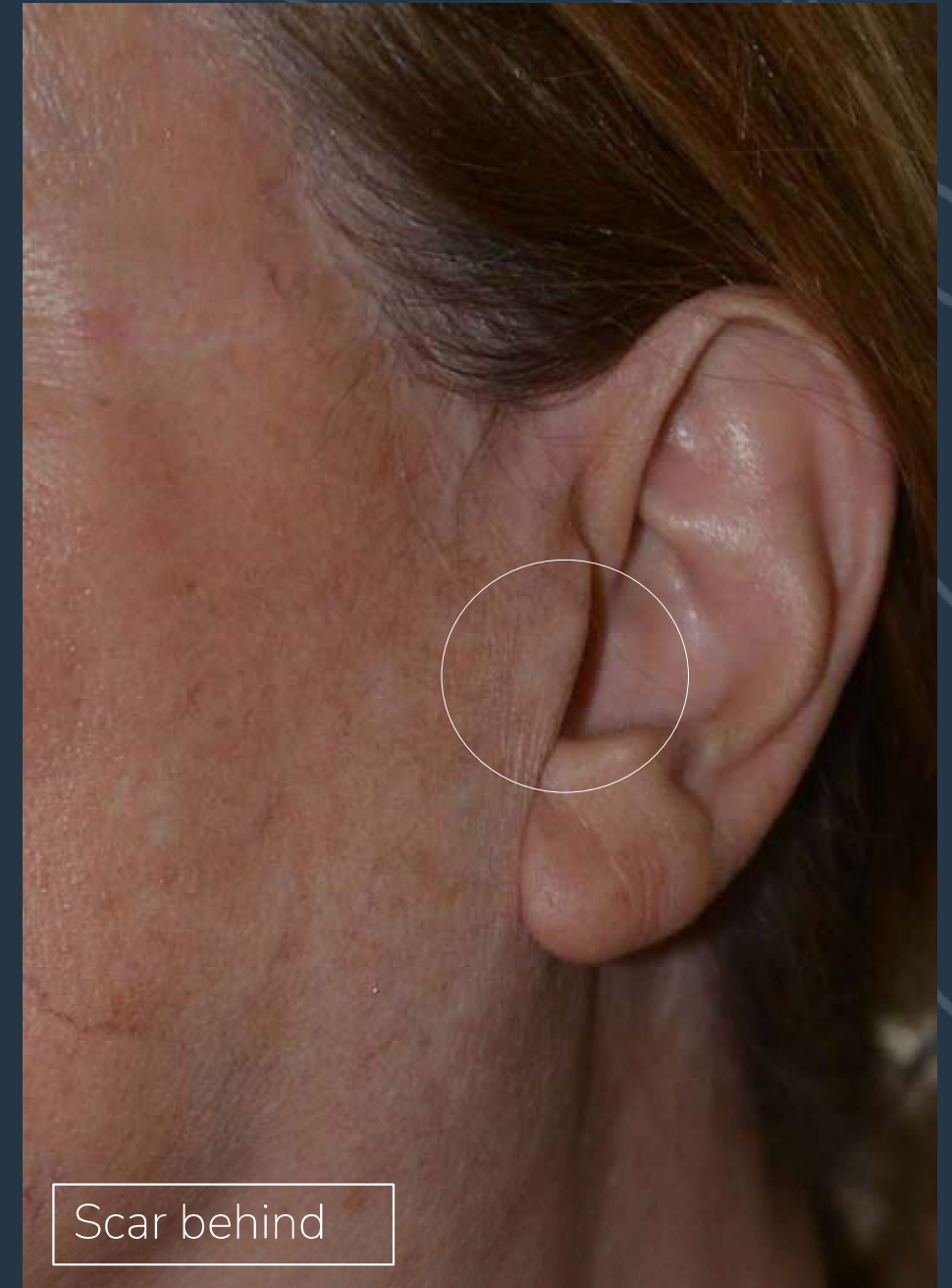
behind

Placing the facelift incision in front of the tragus typically results in less noticeable scars compared to placing it behind the tragus.

The ear's contour appears more natural when the tragus is not obscured by skin, preserving its delicate structure.



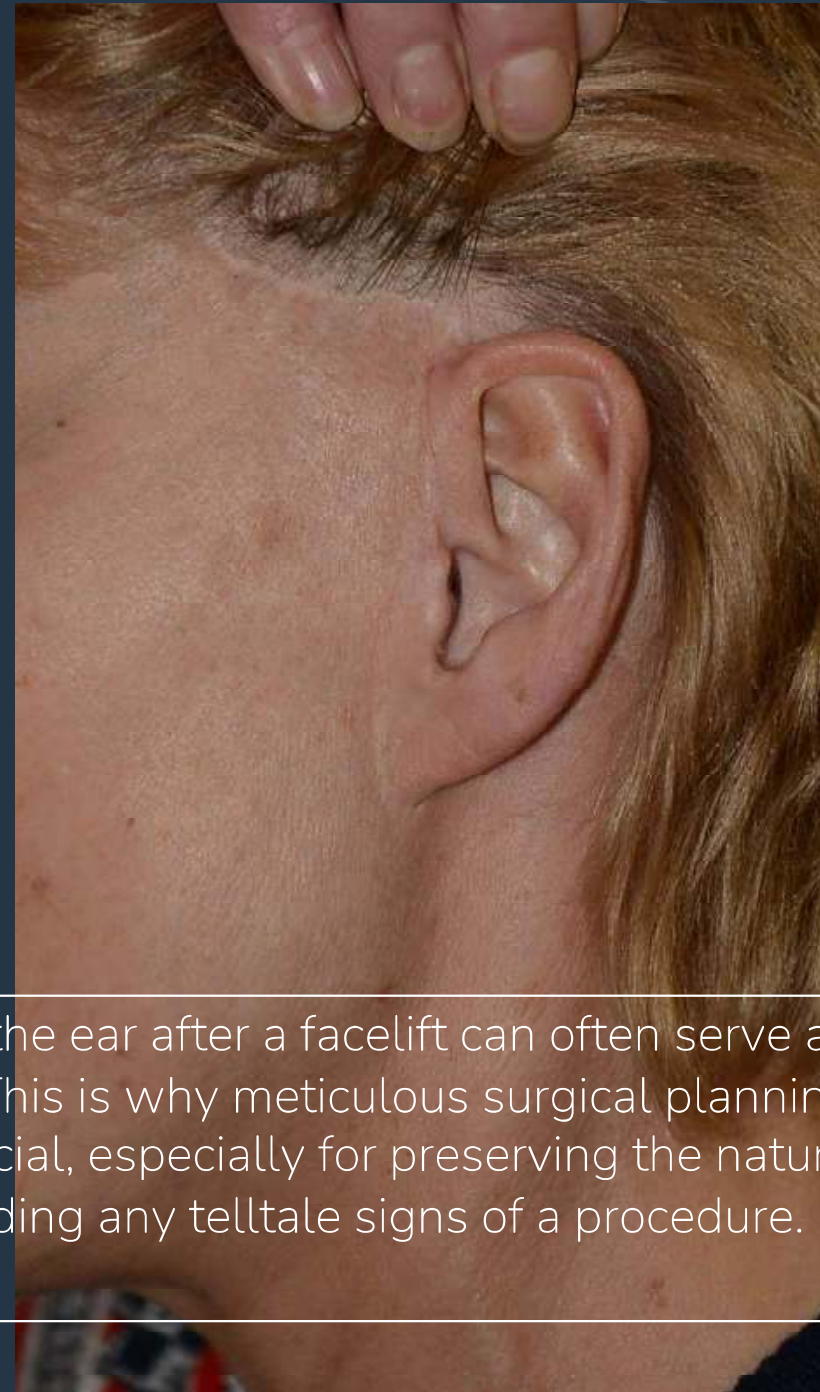
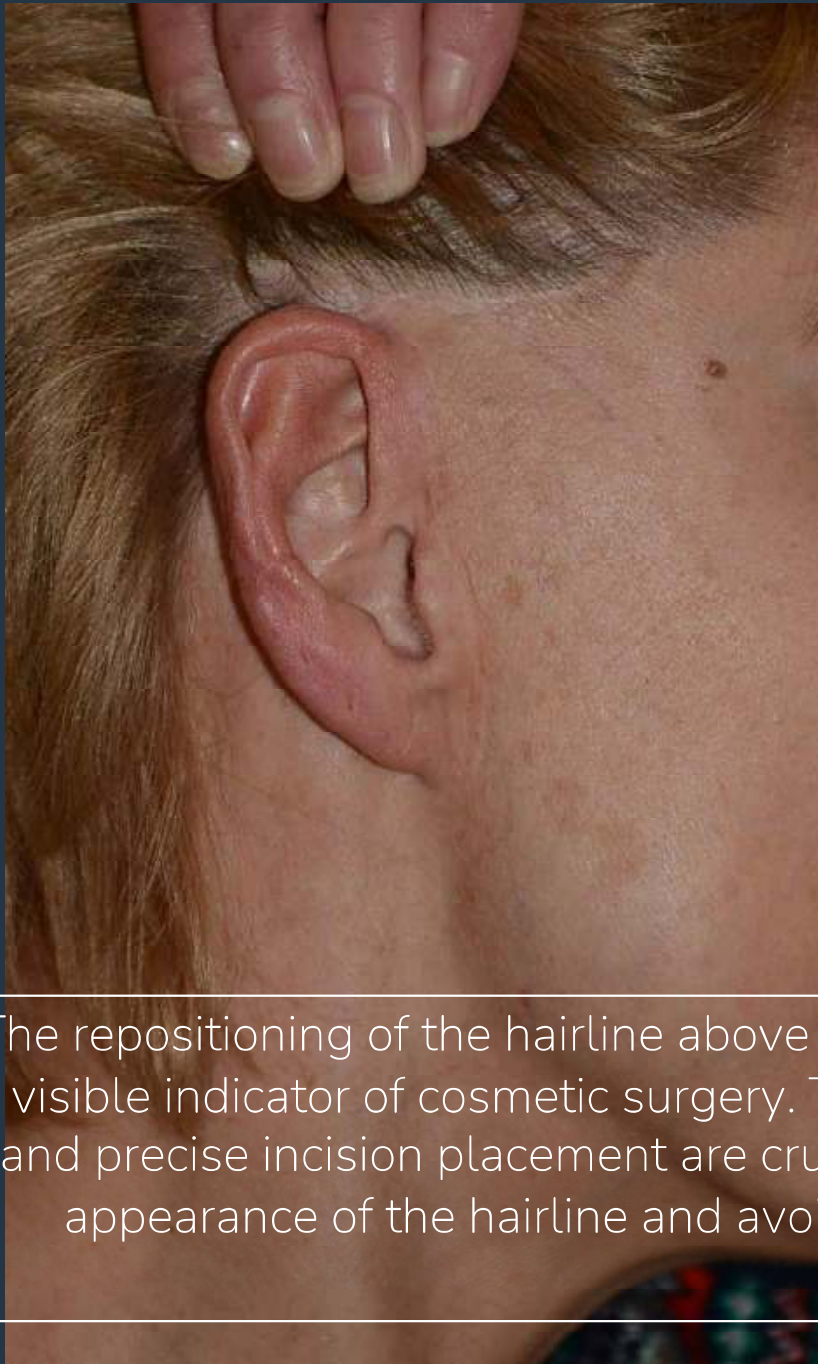
Scar in front of tragus



Scar behind

Challenging suboptimal facelift scarring:

The following examples represent patients referred for revision surgery after procedures performed elsewhere



The repositioning of the hairline above the ear after a facelift can often serve as a visible indicator of cosmetic surgery. This is why meticulous surgical planning and precise incision placement are crucial, especially for preserving the natural appearance of the hairline and avoiding any telltale signs of a procedure.

Ear lobe asymmetry and the 'pixie ear' deformity are often indicative of technical flaws in facelift surgery



Severe pixie ear deformity and visible scarring after a face lift



After correction



Poorly positioned scars



After correction-early result

What to Expect as Facelift Scars Heal

It is not uncommon for sections of facelift scars to look raised, firm, pink, or puckered in the early weeks after surgery.

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7 days after surgery



6 months later



One week



6 months



24 hours after surgery



6 months