



LASERS

NON-SURGICAL SPLIT EARLOBE REPAIR WITH ND:YAG 2940 ABLATIVE LASER

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Background: Split earlobe is related to trauma or chronic use of heavy earrings. To date, surgical reconstruction has often been advocated as the only method for its complete resolution.

Observation: A non-surgical technique is proposed for split earlobe correction. 20 patients with this finding were successfully treated in this private practice. Treatment is performed with ND: YAG 2940 ablative laser, in 1 to 2 sessions. No anesthesia is needed, and the procedure takes 10 to 15 minutes. After asepsis, lobe fixation is done. The laser platform Solon (LMG Lasers, no conflict of interest) was set to ablative-coagulative, in its maximum energy: 33J, speed: 3Hz and automatic duration (ms). The laser is then operated using a surgical tip (3mm) with its thermal shots towards the flapped skin, aiming for its coagulation. Once the skin starts to bleed, the procedure is finished, and benzoin tincture is applied on top of the split ends, which will then be securely attached to each other with the use of a waterproof bandage. The bandage must be kept for at least 7 days. A new healing process is then initiated, culminating in the closure of both ends. Another laser session must be addressed to refine the closure of the scar, and rarely a third (10% of the studied patients).

Key message: ND:YAG 2940 fractional laser appears to be effective for cleft earlobe repair, favorable both aesthetic and functionally, besides lower risk and investment when compared to surgical interventions. For irresolute cases and/or associated flaccid skin, the cosmetic result should be improved upon with the use of fractional laser and/or filler implant.

