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## Correction of ear deformities in newborns by molding

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### Abstract :

Introduction: External ear deformities, as opposed to malformations, are characterized by an embryologically well-developed ear, but with a deformation of the cartilaginous reliefs. These deformities (or qualitative abnormality) can be easily differentiated clinically from malformations (quantitative abnormality) during the initial examination: they are corrected by simple pressure or digital traction. We can then propose an early non-surgical treatment using a molding approach.

Materials and Methods: In our department, we have been treated these ear deformities since December 2019, using a custom made silicone mold (Aquasil™) adapted on the ear shape. All the practical steps will be presented, from the clinical indication by the

surgeon to the end of the treatment. The follow-up and the fabrication of the mold by our prosthetist will also be detailed. Results: they are considered very satisfactory and encouraging. Many cases will be presented.

Discussion: The aim is to take advantage of the great plasticity of the auricular cartilage in newborns during the first weeks of life, by applying external forces on the deformed ear. This molding approach should make it possible to avoid a subsequent otoplasty procedure.