

Wearing an artificial facial prosthesis held by an implant

Prosthesis Clinic

Information for Patients

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Introduction

You have been supplied with a custom-made artificial body part (prosthesis) for a part of your face that is missing. It is held in place by an implant which you have had attached to a bone.

Placing your prosthesis correctly can take a bit of practice at first. Trained staff at the Prosthesis Clinic (a prosthetist) will show you how to attach your prosthesis at your fitting appointment.

Keeping your implant clean

- It is important to wash your hands before cleaning the magnets or gold bar components of your implant.
- The skin around your implants should be cleaned daily with cotton buds to prevent infection. A good time to do this is after a bath or shower as the steam will loosen any dirt or debris. Sterile or saline (salty) water can be used with or without a pH neutral soap.
- Gently remove any dirt or debris that has built up.
- Once cleaned, gently dry around the area with a cotton bud.
- If you notice any bleeding or discharge (secretions) please contact your prosthetist for advice.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Fitting your prosthesis

- Before positioning your prosthesis the area should be clean and dry.
- A small amount of edge glue (adhesive) can be applied to the fine edges if supplied.
- Place the prosthesis over the implant (magnets or bar); a mirror may be helpful.
- If your prosthesis and implant have magnetic components, the prosthesis should locate itself into place when held close to the implant on your face.

If your prosthesis and implant have clips and gold bar components, a small amount of pressure will be needed to connect all of the clips onto the bar.

- Once in position, gently seal the fine edges to the skin and wipe away any excess adhesive.

Removing your prosthesis

- You should remove your prosthesis by holding the thickest part, or main body, of the prosthesis.
- Pull the prosthesis away from the magnets or bar in a 'peeling off' manner.
- Be careful not to pull from the fine edges as these will tear.

When can I wear my prosthesis?

You will be advised on wearing the prosthesis. Usually it can be put on in the morning and worn throughout the day.

We advise that you do not sleep in your prosthesis as this is an opportunity to allow the skin to breath. This also avoids putting unnecessary weight on the supports that hold the implant in place whilst you are sleeping.

Can I wear my prosthesis for sporting activities?

Your prosthesis can be worn for most sporting activities. However to avoid loss or damage, for more active or contact sports we suggest that you remove it and wear some protection over the attachments/ components. This can be a dressing type of plaster or a custom-made protection device made by your prosthetist.

Your prosthesis is made from a material called silicone. You may find that the chemicals in swimming pools have a bleaching effect over time on the silicone. If you go swimming you will need to rinse the prosthesis in clean water as soon as possible once you are out of the pool.

Cleaning your prosthesis

It is important to clean your prosthesis daily. If not kept clean bacteria can grow within the silicone, increasing the risk of infection to your implants:

- Carefully clean your prosthesis with a solution of warm water and scent free, pH neutral soap. It is ok to use a soft material such as gauze or a soft toothbrush to clean, but do not rub aggressively.
- Extra care should be taken at the fine edges as they may tear, and on the external surface so you do not remove any of the surface colour.
- Rinse clean and pat dry with a tissue or towel.
- If you have a plastic section around the clips or magnets, an antibacterial wipe can be used to clean around the components.

Where should I keep my prosthesis when I'm not wearing it?

Make sure that your prosthesis is clean and dry before storing it.

Store in a dry container or drawer away from direct sunlight and heat sources. Sunlight can affect the colour of the silicone and heat (such as from radiators) can cause the fine edges of the prosthesis to curl.

Will I have any follow-up appointments?

After you have been fitted with a new prosthesis you will be asked to return to clinic to check the fit and check how you are managing with the prosthesis. You can use this time to ask any further questions you may have.

If everything is fine you will be reviewed at regular intervals, usually once a year.

Supplies of edge adhesive are available from your prosthetist or on prescription.

How long will my prosthesis last?

Implant held prostheses can vary in life span due to many factors. Your prosthetist will be able to advise you when they think you are in need of a new one. A replacement prosthesis will be made for you when needed.

What should I look out for?

Contact your doctor or the Prosthesis Clinic if you have any of the following, as this may be a sign of infection or loosening of the implant:

- Persistent soreness.
- Swelling.
- Redness around the implant and the skin around it.

What should I do if I have a problem?

If you have any problems with your prosthesis, please contact the service on the telephone numbers below for help and advice (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm):

| | |
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| Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery: | 0116 258 5671 |
| Maxillofacial Laboratory/ Prosthesis Clinic: | 0116 258 5255 |



اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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