

Wearing an artificial prosthesis held by adhesive

Prosthesis Clinic

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Information for Patients

Leaflet number: 1261 Version: 2

Introduction

You have had a silicone prosthesis made which is held in place by a type of glue (adhesive).

Try to place your prosthesis using the adhesive can be tricky at first. Trained staff (a prosthetist) at the Prosthesis Clinic will show you how to attach your prosthesis at your fitting appointment.

How to fit your prosthesis:

Before you start:

- Before touching or handling your prosthesis always wash your hands. Do this with soap and water.
- Lay down some paper towels to protect your work surface. Do this in case you spill some of the adhesive.
- Make sure the surface of your prosthesis and your skin do not have adhesive, grease and debris on it.

To begin with practice finding the right position to place your prosthesis without using any adhesive. Do this in front of a mirror. Once you feel sure you have the right fitting, you can then try with some adhesive.

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

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

For water based adhesive:

Carefully apply the adhesive to the centre of the prosthesis, avoiding the fine edges. You may find it useful to use a small brush to apply it.

Leave the prosthesis to stand for 2 to 3 minutes. The adhesive should turn from white to clear.

For solvent based adhesive:

Carefully apply the adhesive to the centre of the prosthesis, avoiding the fine edges. Use a little bit of adhesive. A little goes a long way. You may find it useful to use a small brush to apply it.

Leave for 2 to 3 minutes to let the surface become tacky.

How long can I wear my prosthesis for?

You must not wear your prosthesis all the time. You need to give your skin a break. We advise you not to sleep in your prosthesis.

The process of attaching your prosthesis will slowly become easier as you become more confident.

How to remove your prosthesis:**For water based adhesive:**

To remove the prosthesis, carefully lift the edge. It is best to choose an edge at the thickest part of the prosthesis. This is to make sure you avoid tearing the silicone. Gently ease the prosthesis away from your skin.

You will need to remove the adhesive from your prosthesis. You will need to remove it whilst it is dry. Avoid wetting the prosthesis at this stage. Use your thumbs to rub off the adhesive. It will cause it to 'ball' on the surface and can then be lifted away.

Finally, wash your skin with soap and warm water.

For solvent based adhesive:

To remove the prosthesis, carefully lift the edge using a cotton bud soaked in adhesive remover. Using a rolling motion, work your way around and under the fitting surface, gently lifting the prosthesis away from your skin as you go around.

Remove any remaining adhesive from the surface of the prosthesis using the adhesive remover.

Finally, wash your skin with soap and warm water.

Where should I keep it when I am not wearing it?

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

Store in a dry box 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?

As long as you continue to wear your prosthesis, you will continue to have review appointments with your clinician to monitor the prosthesis every year.

How long will my prosthesis last?

How long your prosthesis lasts depends on many factors. Your prosthetist will be able to advise you when they think you are in need of a new one.

Are there any side-effects from wearing it?

Sometimes people have a slight reaction to the adhesives. If the area becomes red or sore, stop using the adhesive and contact the clinic.

What should I do if I have a problem?

If you have any problems with your prosthesis, please contact the service on the phone numbers below for help and advice (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm):

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery: **0116 258 5671**

Maxillofacial Laboratory/ Prosthesis Clinic: **0116 258 5255**

