

Wearing an artificial facial prosthesis held by an implant

Prosthesis Clinic

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Information for Patients

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Introduction

You have been given 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 will show you how to attach your prosthesis at your fitting appointment.

Keeping your implant clean

- You must wash your hands before cleaning the magnets or gold bar components of your implant.
- You should clean the skin around your implants 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. Use sterile or saline (salty) water with or without a pH neutral soap to clean your implant.
- 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.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

Fitting your prosthesis

- You should clean and dry the area before positioning your prosthesis.
- You can use a small amount of edge glue (adhesive) on the fine edges if you have it.
- Place the prosthesis over the implant (magnets or bar). Use a mirror to help.
- 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, you will need to use a small amount of pressure to connect all of the clips onto the bar.
- Once in position, gently seal the fine edges to the skin and wipe away any extra 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?

We will advise you 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. You need to give your skin a break. 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. We suggest you remove it for more active or contact sports to avoid loss or damage. 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 right away once you are out of the pool.

Cleaning your prosthesis

You must clean your prosthesis daily. Bacteria can grow within the silicone increasing the risk of infection to your implants. You should:

- carefully clean your prosthesis with a solution of warm water and scent free, pH neutral soap. You can use a gauze or a very soft toothbrush to clean. Do not rub harshly.
- take extra care 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, you can use an antibacterial wipe to clean around the components.

Where should I keep my prosthesis when I am 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 we will ask you to return to clinic to check the fit and see how you are managing with the prosthesis. You can use this time to ask any questions you may have.

If everything is fine we will review you 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:

- lasting 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 phone numbers below for help and advice (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm):

Oral and 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۔
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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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