



About Us

Medical Art Resources works with patients who are missing part of the face or body due to excisional cancer surgery, traumatic injury, or birth difference, to create life-like prostheses. Our certified anaplastologists custom-make your prosthesis in our own laboratory ensuring high quality and individual design. No need to worry—we are gentle and nothing we do is painful. We treat our patients like family and make sure your time with us is stress free.

Our team partners with surgeons, therapists, and audiologists to provide the best possible prosthetic outcome. When needed, we refer patients to the appropriate specialist.

Who needs an ear prosthesis?

Our patients need prosthetic ears for different reasons: birth differences such as microtia, surgery from cancer or tumors, and traumatic injuries. Regardless of the reason, we can create a very natural looking ear prosthesis for you by reproducing the texture, color and translucency of your skin. An ear prosthesis restores missing anatomy, supports eyeglasses, and may improve hearing by directing sound to an intact ear canal.



Microtia & Prosthetic Restoration

Microtia is a condition that is present at birth in which the external ear is underdeveloped. It is often accompanied by atresia, or absence of the ear canal. We meet with many children and adults with microtia and atresia.

We also have considerable experience creating ear prostheses for individuals born with bilateral microtia (affecting both ears). We have developed a systematic approach to determining size, location, and shape for bilateral ear prostheses to ensure a natural appearance.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get started?

It's never too early to meet with our clinical team for a new patient consultation and evaluation at no cost to you. Contact us as soon as you are ready to gather information. There is no obligation or pressure to proceed with treatment. It's that simple!

What should I expect at the new patient consultation?

You will meet with one of our clinical anaplastologists who will listen to your concerns, examine your affected anatomy, and show you examples of prostheses. Our anaplastologist will describe your options for prosthetic attachment and develop a treatment plan for you. If you are unable to meet with our clinical team in-person, we can schedule an evaluation via Facetime or Skype, or communicate via email or on the phone.

What are the limitations of prosthetic reconstruction?

An ear prosthesis is made of silicone. It is not living tissue and must be removed each night for sleeping. It is important to clean the underlying skin and the prosthesis every day.

How often will my prosthesis need to be replaced?

A prosthesis lasts between 1 and 3 years depending on factors such as method of attachment, work and home environment, sun exposure, skin type, and hygiene. In most cases, we can use an archived mold to reproduce your prosthesis in only 1 or 2 appointments. When there has been growth or changes in facial contour, we may need to remake your mold.

Will my prosthesis be covered by medical insurance?

Most reconstructive prostheses are covered by Medicare and health insurance plans. We are patient advocates and, with your permission, we will prior authorize the prosthesis and submit a claim on your behalf once the prosthesis is complete.



Ear Prosthesis Quick Guide

How does a prosthesis attach?



Craniofacial Bone-anchored Implants

Small titanium screws are surgically implanted during an outpatient hospital procedure. A 3-6 month healing period is required for the implants to bond with bone and provide a stable foundation for your ear prosthesis. Once healing is complete, the prosthesis snaps onto the implants with clips or magnets.

You should discuss with your surgeon whether you are a candidate for implants. Together with your surgeon we identify the ideal location for 2 or 3 implants to ensure the best possible outcome for you.



Medical Adhesive

A gentle medical adhesive is painted onto the prosthesis in the morning and cleaned at night when the prosthesis is removed.



Anatomical Retention

When part of the natural ear remains, we may be able to design a prosthesis that fits like a glove over the ear remnant. In some cases, this eliminates the need for skin adhesive; however some adhesive is typically needed for secure retention.

How is an ear prosthesis made?

Our process requires 3 to 5 appointments which involve these steps:

- Make molds of your ear region using gentle materials.
- We work with the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Rapid Prototyping Center to scan, mirror-image and 3-D print a model that we then convert to wax.
- We have you try on the wax model to ensure a natural contour and fit.
- We formulate 5 or more colors to match your unique skin-tones using health grade silicone.
- Once the sculpture is finalized, we fabricate a durable mold which allows us to reproduce the prosthesis.
- We meticulously paint every skin detail using your color formulae in your mold.
- We check the ear prosthesis for precise fit, and color details are delicately painted onto the surface.
- Wear and care instructions are demonstrated so that you can use your prosthesis with confidence.



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