



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 and therapists to provide the best possible prosthetic outcome. When needed, we refer patients to the appropriate specialist.

How does an orbital prosthesis work?

An orbital prosthesis restores the eyeball and eyelids and may include the eyebrow and part of the forehead, nose, or cheek. The “eyeball” portion of the restoration is referred to as an ocular prosthesis, and is designed to integrate with the eyelids and surrounding soft tissue elements which make up the orbital prosthesis. Both components are artistically crafted to achieve a convincing likeness. The ocular is made out of acrylic (plastic) and is painted individually to match the unique detailed coloring of your intact eye. The surrounding orbital prosthesis is made out of soft silicone. The ocular is encased within the silicone so that you are inserting a single prosthesis. Your eye prosthesis will be life-like, comfortable, secure, durable, and safe.



Who needs an orbital prosthesis?

Our patients need an orbital prosthesis for different reasons: congenital or birth difference; eye cancer or tumor removal (orbital exenteration), including childhood cancers like rhabdomyosarcoma or retinoblastoma; and traumatic injury—accidents, burns, or other trauma.

Does an orbital prosthesis blink or move?

Unfortunately, an orbital prosthesis does not blink or move. Eyeglasses provide vital protection to the intact eye, with the additional benefit of obscuring the unblinking prosthesis. We recommend selection of interesting eyeglass frames, which can be an excellent distraction from the prosthesis.

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 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 orbital prosthesis is made of silicone. Because it is not living tissue, it 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. In cases where there has been growth or changes in facial contour, we may need to remake your mold.

Will my prosthetic finger or hand 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.



Left orbital prosthesis that attaches with magnets to bone-anchored implants.

Orbital Prosthesis Quick Guide

How does a prosthesis attach?



Craniofacial Bone-anchored Implants

Small titanium screws are surgically implanted into the orbital area 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 prosthesis. Once the healing period is complete, the prosthesis snaps onto the implants with 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 to 4 implants to ensure the best possible outcome.



Medical adhesive

A gentle medical adhesive is painted onto the prosthesis in the morning and cleaned at night when the prosthesis is removed. We offer a variety of adhesive products (a liquid adhesive or two-sided tape), so that you can choose the one that best meets your needs.



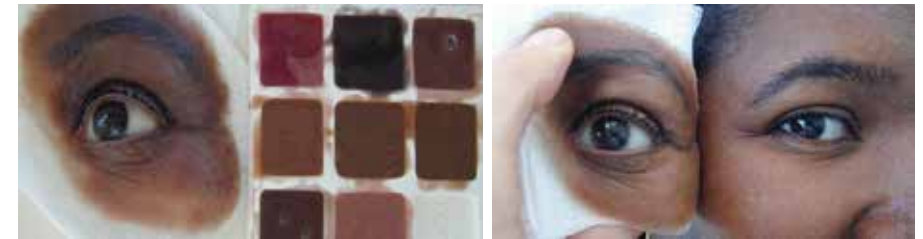
Anatomical Retention

If your eye and eyelids have been removed, the remaining opening may allow us to design a prosthesis that slides into place and engages anatomical undercuts for secure attachment. In some cases this may eliminate the need for adhesive.

How is an orbital prosthesis made?

Our process requires 4 to 5 appointments which involve these steps:

- First, we create the ocular. We select an ocular shape, paint the iris, and recreate details seen within the sclera (white of the eye) such as blood vessels.
- Molds are made of the eye area using gentle materials.
- We reference the intact eye and photos to develop a wax prototype of the missing anatomy.
- We have you try on the wax prototype to establish a natural contour and fit.



- We formulate 5 or more colors to match your unique skin-tones using health grade silicone.
- When the sculpture is finalized, we make a durable mold which allows for reproduction of the prosthesis.
- Every skin detail is painted into the mold using your color formulae.
- We check the orbital prosthesis for a precise and comfortable fit, and we delicately paint additional color details, such as freckling, onto the surface.
- In some cases, eyelashes and brow hairs are inserted for a natural appearance.
- Wear and care instructions are demonstrated so that you can use your prosthesis with confidence.



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