

We hope that this brochure has answered most of your questions. Please call if you have additional questions or if you would like to view more patient photographs. We will be glad to schedule you for a free consultation.

*Member of the American Anaplastology Association,
Board for Certified Clinical Anaplastologists,
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Board for Certified Medical Illustrators*

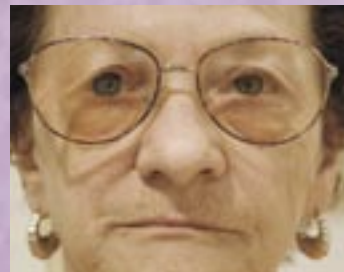
Facial Prosthetics Center

Juan R. García, MA, Certified Clinical Anaplastologist

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Frequently Asked Questions

Facial Prosthetics

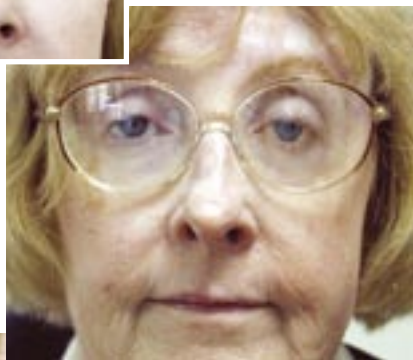


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There are many questions a patient has when faced with facial disfigurement resulting from an accident, trauma, birth deformity, or cancer surgery.

This brochure answers some of the common questions and provides information for those considering facial prosthetic treatment.



What is a prosthesis?

A prosthesis is a custom-sculpted device made of silicone. It is worn on top of the skin to restore normal facial contours. It covers and protects a cavity, delicate tissues, scarring, missing, or distorted anatomy. There are different types of prostheses: orbital (eye and eyelids), nasal (nose), auricular (ear), hemifacial (eye and cheek), midfacial (nose and cheek), and maxillofacial (nose, cheek, and eye).

Who makes prostheses?

Anaplastologists make prostheses for the face and body. Ocularists make artificial eyes. The background of these professionals is generally in medical arts. Both the anaplastologist and ocularist are trained in the various techniques and materials used to make impressions of an affected area of the body, sculpting replacement forms, moldmaking, casting, and color matching skin and eyes.



How is the prosthesis created?

The process begins by taking an impression of the affected area. If an orbital prosthesis is required (eyelids and ocular) the ocularist will make the artificial eye, whereas the anaplastologist will create the eyelid and skin struc-



tures. Several reference photographs are taken of the area and opposite side (in eye or ear cases) to assist during the sculpting session.



Next, the proposed shape of the prosthesis is sculpt-

ed in wax. A mold is made of this wax form. The mold can then be filled with silicone tinted to the patient's skin tones. Once heat cured, the prosthesis is created.



After the silicone piece is casted, the patient is called in for a final fitting and colorization session. Care and use instructions are reviewed and the patient leaves with the prosthesis.

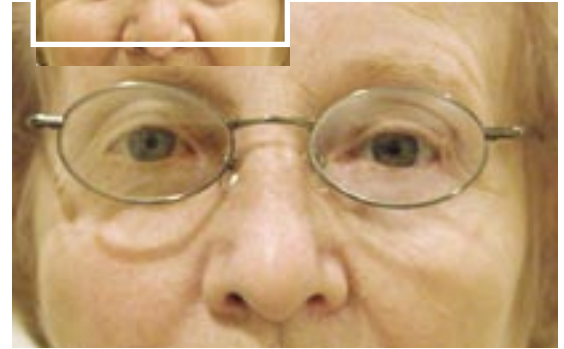


How long will it take to create a prosthesis?

The steps outlined above generally take several office visits. Creating a prosthesis involves much intricate work over a period of time and possibly some lengthy sessions.



Patience is required to obtain the best results.



How is it held on?

Most of our patients use acrylic-based adhesives to secure their prosthesis. These adhesives are gentle on the skin and are able to hold the prosthesis in place throughout the day. Several grades of adhesive are available with varying bond strengths.



Another option for securing the prosthesis involves a surgical procedure. Small screws made of titanium are implanted directly into the skull. A bar and clip system or magnets can then be used to attach the prosthesis. Consult with your physician if you are interested in this surgical option.

How long will the prosthesis last?

The life duration of a prosthesis varies with each person. Dilligently following care and maintenance procedures can extend the usable look and function of the prosthesis. Because the edges are



made thin to blend with the skin, careful handling is required. Prolonged exposure to smoke or sunlight can also affect the color. Periodic cleanings and paint touch-ups can also extend the usable time period. With

proper care, a prosthesis can last several years.



When a new prosthesis is needed, one can usually be re-cast using the existing molds without the need for new impressions and sculpting. An office visit will be needed to check the fit and match the color to the surrounding area. Nevertheless, due to changes over time, the entire process may need to be repeated.



Can I wear it overnight/everyday?

A prosthesis must be removed every night to allow the tissues it covers to breathe. We advise our patients that they may not need wear the prosthesis all the time. This will also extend the life of the prosthesis.



Will my health insurance cover the costs?

We urge all patients to investigate their private insurance or Medicare policies for coverage. Facial prostheses are usually billed under the durable medical equipment (DME) portion of a policy. We find that most medical insurance plans cover the costs of prosthetic treatment.