

Extra-Oral Maxillofacial Prostheses

Extra-oral prostheses or craniofacial prostheses are replacements for missing parts of the head and neck. Somato-prostheses are replacements for other parts of the body. These prostheses are created in titanium, 3-D printed plastics, and hand painted silicone. The purpose of these prostheses is to provide the illusion of an intact facial structure and to allow for acceptable speech and breathing. The prosthetic is attached by implants or adhesive. Both need attentive care for the best results.

Care after implant placement

- A pressure dressing is applied over the surgical site. Do not disturb this bandage during healing.
- Elevate your head while sleeping for 3-4 days. An extra pillow can be used for elevation.
- Do not wash or contaminate the surgical area for 2 to 4 weeks.
- Do not wear your old prosthesis while the surgical site is healing.
- Follow the instructions provided by the surgical team for dressing and suture removal.

Prosthetic care and maintenance

1. **Skin care:** Every day, check the skin around the prosthesis for irritation or buildup. Clean your skin every day, preferably at bedtime. Use a Q-tip with diluted hydrogen peroxide to clean around the implants and under the prosthesis.
2. **Applying the prosthesis:** Apply the prosthesis in front of a mirror to make sure it is placed correctly. Gently pull away any loose skin to make sure it does not get trapped. Position the prosthesis and firmly press it onto the clips or magnets. If using adhesive, apply a layer of adhesive onto the clean surface with a Q-tip and wait for it to turn clear and glossy. Position and press the prosthesis firmly into place.
3. **Removing the prosthesis:** Remove the prosthesis before going to sleep. Grasp a thick edge of the prosthesis and lift the clips away from the bar or peel away the adhesive seal. Use the supplied cleaning solution to remove leftover adhesive with a piece of gauze. Use hand soap on the skin or prosthesis to gently remove any buildup. Use only cold or lukewarm water to prevent damage to the prosthesis.
4. **Care of the surgical cavity:** Clean any internal defects using a solution of one cup warm water and a half teaspoon of salt. Squirt the solution into the cavity with a rubber tipped syringe and allow the excess solution to run out. A humidifier at night will help reduce excess crusting.
5. **Storage:** Store the prosthesis in a clean dry container away from the reach of children or animals.
6. **Dislodgement:** There are certain situations where a prosthesis may dislodge, especially when playing with children or playing sports. Moisture can dislodge a prosthesis held in place by adhesive. If swimming or excessive perspiration cause dislodgement, remove the prosthesis, dry it off, and reapply adhesive.
7. **Remaking the prosthesis:** Prostheses last 2 to 3 years. When it begins to change color or the fit changes, make an appointment to re-color or remake the prosthesis. Detailed care of a prosthesis will improve

the longevity. The objective of treatment is to provide a long-term result. This can only be achieved with meticulous care of the soft tissue, implants and prosthesis, as well as routine follow-up visits.

Intra-Oral Maxillofacial Prostheses

Maxillofacial prostheses are replacements for missing structures of your jaws or head and neck region.

Obturator prostheses are replacements for the upper jaws that close any holes in the palate created by surgery. You will receive a surgical obturator during surgery and will wake up with it in place. It is tied into your remaining teeth or sutured to your palate. You will not be able to remove the plate or the surgical dressing. It prevents food and liquid from going into your nose and allows for normal speech. It will be removed after a week and replaced with an interim obturator, which you can remove and which is adjusted over period of a few months while the palate heals. Once healed, a permanent obturator will be created and attached to your natural teeth or implants.

Resection prostheses are replacements for missing structures of the lower jaw that are made after healing from the surgery. Many of these are retained by natural teeth or implants.

Speech aids or palate repositioning devices are dental plates with added extensions to help with speech and swallowing issues resulting from defects in the palate. Many of these are retained by natural teeth or implants.

Home Care Instructions for Intra-Oral Prostheses

1. **Your obturator should be worn during waking hours only**, unless otherwise advised.
2. After meals, the obturator may be removed and rinsed to remove debris.
3. At night, the obturator must be cleaned by gentle brushing using the provided denture brush and liquid soap. The obturator may be soaked with a denture cleanser overnight in its plastic case.
4. Do not use bleach on the obturator. Use dilute hydrogen peroxide or baking soda (50% dilution in water) to clean or disinfect the soft components.
5. Do not expose your dentures to extreme heat including direct sunlight, hot water or dishwashers or microwaves.
6. All prostheses should be kept submerged in water when not being used to prevent damage to the plastic.
7. Animals are attracted to the scent of a prosthesis and can damage or destroy the plastic or metal parts so the prosthesis should always be stored in a sealed box like the provided denture box or a zip-lock container.
8. Adhesives may be needed to help retain the prosthesis. It is recommended to try multiple types and brands to see which one works best for you.
9. Your mouth must be kept scrupulously clean to prevent any damage to your teeth since they are now bearing increased loads from the missing teeth and jaw. If you are at high risk for decay you may be prescribed a high-fluoride toothpaste or gel.

It is extremely important to have routine dental checkups and treatment as advised to prevent small issues developing into larger ones. Please maintain all scheduled hygiene and dental appointments.