Use and Care of Your Facial Prosthesis: Glued

This factsheet gives you instructions and information about using and caring for your facial prosthesis.

Your prosthesis team will show you how to put your prosthesis on and take it off. If you need a reminder, you can follow the steps below.

How do I put on my prosthesis?

1. Looking in a mirror, hold your prosthesis in position without glue to make sure you have it in the right place.

2. Wash and dry the area of your skin where the prosthesis goes.

    a. You can use soap and water or alcohol swabs for cleaning. Make sure your skin is dry so the prosthesis sticks well.

    b. Do not use lotions, creams, or makeup on the area where the prosthesis goes.

3. Use a cotton swab to spread a thin, even layer of glue along the edge on the back of the prosthesis. You do not need glue in the center.

    a. You need only a small amount of glue. If there is extra glue on the swab, you can put it on the area of your skin where the prosthesis goes for extra security.

    b. If you need to add more glue, use a new swab. This keeps your glue germ-free.

    c. If your skin is red or bleeding under the prosthesis, do not put adhesive on that part of the prosthesis. If a sore lasts more than 2 weeks, call us.

    d. Be sure to close the glue bottle tightly. Store it at room temperature. Do not let it freeze.

4. Let the glue dry until it is clear.

5. Looking in the mirror, press the prosthesis in place on your skin. Avoid moving that part of your face for about 10 minutes. This lets the glue bond to your skin.

If the prosthesis does not stay in place, try adding a second layer of glue. Let it partly dry—about halfway between white and clear. Then press it on your skin again.

Your prosthesis may come loose while you are away from home. This is not common. But in case it happens, you can keep glue, alcohol swabs, and cotton swabs with you to put the prosthesis in place again.

If the prosthesis comes loose often, call us. It may be time to replace it.

How do I take off my prosthesis?

1. Hold the thickest edge of the prosthesis. Gently begin to pull it away from your skin.

2. Work a finger under the prosthesis, and lift it away from your skin from below. This can keep the prosthesis from tearing, and it is better for your skin.

How do I care for my prosthesis?

You can put new glue over old layers for 3–4 days. After that, remove the old glue from your prosthesis.

1. Hold the prosthesis between your thumb and index finger, with your index finger on the back. Put an alcohol swab under your thumb.

2. Gently push the dried glue from the center to the edge of the prosthesis. It will form a clear or gray roll as you work toward the edge. Be careful not to stretch the prosthesis.

3. The prosthesis may get dirty or have a slight odor. If this happens, wash it gently with mild soap and warm water.

4. Pat dry with a clean towel. Store your prosthesis in its storage case. Keep it safe from children and pets.

Prosthesis Care Tips

- Smoke can stain and yellow your prosthesis. Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke.
- **If you wear makeup with your prosthesis**, use a non-liquid type. Use soap and water to remove makeup. Other face cleansers may keep your prosthesis from staying in place.
- **If you dye or bleach your hair,** do not wear your prosthesis while coloring. Wash your hair 3-4 times after coloring before you wear your prosthesis again. A tiny amount of dye or bleach can change its color permanently.
- Keep your prosthesis away from ink and makeup that can stain it. Avoid carrying it loose in your pocket or purse.
- The colors in your prosthesis may fade over time. We recommend returning once a year to renew the color.
- Your prosthesis will last for 2-2½ years of daily wear. If your prosthesis comes loose often, it may be time to replace it.
- If you see damage or signs of wear on your prothesis, call us for an appointment. We can repair or replace it.

Questions?

For more information visit our website huntsmancancer.org/prosthetics or call Facial Prosthetics at 801-585-0140.