

Use and Care of Your Facial Prosthesis: Implanted

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

How do I put on my prosthesis?

Your prosthesis is a unique, custom design made to fit you. Your prosthesis team will show you how to put it on and take it off.

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.

You can use moisturizer on your skin after taking off the prosthesis.

Skin Care for Implant Users

1. Clean gently around each part of the attachment with a cotton swab, soap, and water. Remove any crust or moisture around the implants. Rough cleaning can cause redness and swelling.
2. Be sure the area around your implants is clean before attaching your prosthesis.

Some redness near the implants is normal. If the implant area is more red than usual or has a slight odor, you can clean around the implants with alcohol swabs.

Call the surgeon who placed the implants and call us, if any of these things happen in the implant area:

- Redness gets worse
- Swelling
- Pain
- Bleeding

How do I care for my prosthesis?

Wash the prosthesis gently with mild soap and warm water.

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 nonliquid 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.
- Your prosthesis will not float. We recommend taking it off when you swim in open water such as lakes, rivers, or oceans.
- 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. Often when it is time for a replacement, the prosthesis will not fit as well as usual.
- If you see damage or signs of wear on your prosthesis, 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.