

# A CLINICIAN'S GUIDE TO PROSTHETIC EYES



## Prosthetic Eye Patient Examinations

# 1

### Patient Exam

Performing regular socket, implant and eyelid examinations improve patient health and well-being.

Things to look for:

- lack of tear film
- excess drainage
- eyelid malposition
- inflamed conjunctiva
- tissue exposures
- tissue adhesions
- prosthetic upkeep
- patient discomfort

# 2

### Prosthesis Removal



Gently pull down the lower lid; swipe finger towards the ear and ask patient to look up; prosthesis slides out over the lower lid.

# 3

### Prosthesis Exam & Cleaning

Examine the prosthesis looking for protein deposits, scratches and surface irregularities. Soak in 3%

hydrogen peroxide for 3-5 minutes to disinfect the prosthesis - bubbles identify bacterial action. Gently scrub with fingertips using a mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Dry with a soft tissue. Avoid cleaning solvents and alcohol as these damage the prosthesis.

# 4

### Reinserting Prosthesis



Lift upper lid; gently insert prosthesis and keep sliding upwards; pull down lower lid to seat into position; ask patient to blink.

## Prosthetic Care

Professional polishing and socket exams should be performed by a certified ocularist **every 6 months**. After disinfection, polishing removes protein, bacteria and scratches which provides comfort and decreased mucosal drainage.

## Tissue Care

Prosthetic eye patients occasionally experience conjunctival infection or tissue inflammation. Treatment with antibiotics or steroids can help alleviate symptoms. Often there may be underlying causes such as a deteriorating prosthesis, infrequent polishing, or socket irregularities. During treatment, encourage patients to wear their prosthesis to avoid tissue contraction.

## Replacements

Prosthetic eyes should be replaced **after 5 years** due to tissue changes, implant migration, orbital fat shifting, bacterial infiltration or breakdown of the acrylic surface. Children require more frequent replacements due to anatomical growth.



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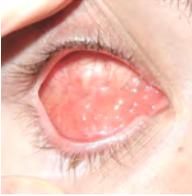
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## Timeline of Prosthetic Eye Fitting

## After Enucleation or Evisceration



**2 Weeks Post-Op**  
Ocularist fits a custom conformer to aid healing and improve formation of fornices



**6-8 Weeks Post-Op**  
Most of surgical swelling is reduced; the impression and prosthetic fitting process begins



**4-5 Visits**  
Creation of the custom prosthetic eye takes 4-5 visits over the span of 1-2 weeks



**Design Process**  
Patient is the model and participates in each step of the design process



**Ocular Restoration**  
Patients are trained to care for their prosthetic eye and counseled on daily living impacts

### Quick Facts

- Prosthetic eyes should be professionally polished every 6 months
- A prosthetic eye lasts about 5 years
- Scleral Shells can be worn full time
- Lubricants can help alleviate discomfort
- Prosthetic eyes and scleral shells are covered under most major medical plans including Medicare and Medicaid

### Cleaning at Home

Encourage patients to remove and clean their prosthesis 1-2 times per month. More frequent cleaning may irritate or dry out tissue. Cleaning with warm water is ideal, using a tissue to lightly buff surface prior to reinsertion. On occasion, mild soap or baby shampoo can be used and rinsed thoroughly.

### Protective Eyewear

All monocular patients are highly encouraged to wear protective lenses. Prescriptions should be **balanced** for overall facial symmetry and equal appearance of the prosthesis. Sport-specific protective eyewear should always be worn.

### Lubricants

Prosthetic eye patients tend to experience dryness symptoms similar to dry eye or MGD. Silicone oil lubricants, such as Sil-Ophtho™, are specifically formulated for prosthetic eyes and can provide long-lasting relief. Using artificial tears in conjunction with the oil may extend a patient's comfort.

### Phthisical Globe



### Scleral Shell



With precision fitting techniques, a scleral shell will fit over NLP globes. Patients with phthisical or full-sized globes may be good candidates. Scleral shells provide a high level of comfort and movement and can be a favorable alternative to eye removal or colored contact lens.



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