Tissue 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.
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.

Timeline of Prosthetic Eye Fitting

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.