



**prosthetics**  
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## **Craniofacial Implants**

### **Skin Care and Maintenance of Your Prosthesis**

(These are recommended guidelines. Individual needs may vary.)

#### **Positioning the Prosthesis:**

- Wash and dry your hands before handling your prosthesis.
- Be sure your prosthesis is clean and oil-free by gently washing it with soap and water.
- Bring the prosthesis into position until the magnets align – you should hear a gentle clicking sound as the magnets engage. Pulling gently on the prosthesis will reconfirm if the prosthesis is properly engaged.

#### **Blending the Margins:**

- You may apply a thin layer of Aquaphor® or other non-medicated ointment under the thin margins to create a better seal and enhance the blend between skin and prosthesis.
- Makeup can be used to blend the margins when needed. *Be sure to wash the makeup off the prosthesis daily to protect the silicone from the alcohols and oils in the cosmetics.*

#### **Removing the Prosthesis:**

- Grasp the prosthesis in the region that supports the implant components and gently pull. *It may help to rotate the prosthesis as you pull to disengage the magnets.*
- It is best to remove the prosthesis daily to keep your skin healthy and maintain proper hygiene of the prosthesis.

#### **Proper Maintenance of the Prosthesis:**

- Clean your prosthesis with a mild dish soap such as Dawn® and warm water.
- Store your prosthesis in a non-airtight container in a safe place.

#### **Care of Tissue Around the Abutments:**

- Follow the directions of your physician as to the skincare routine around the abutments.
- Cleaning around the abutments is critical to the long-term health of the implants. This can be done routinely in the shower, but if you notice debris around the abutments, you may use hydrogen peroxide applied with a cotton swab to gently break up and remove the debris.
- Anytime you notice redness, swelling, or pain around the abutments, please remove your prosthesis and call your physician and anaplastologist.
- If you notice the magnetic cap on your abutment coming loose, tighten it with your fingers and call your anaplastologist to arrange to have it tightened.

#### **What to avoid:**

- Please do not swim wearing your prosthesis. Salt water and chlorine cause the color to fade.
- Please do not use soaps containing oils, lotions, or moisturizers on the prosthesis.
- Please do not use solvents except those recommended by your anaplastologist to clean the prosthesis. *Rubbing alcohol is fine on occasion, but strong solvents can shorten the life of a prosthesis.*
- If you wear an orbital prosthesis, do not clean the plastic eye with rubbing alcohol.
- Please avoid contact with cigarette smoke, which will stain and yellow the prosthesis.
- Please avoid prolonged direct exposure to sunlight, which can cause the color of the prosthesis to fade.