# Genesis Prosthetic Arts

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# **Daily Care of Your Prosthesis**

### **Preparing Your Skin and Your Prosthesis**

- 1. Repeatedly practice positioning your prosthesis without adhesive to ensure accurate placement.
- 2. Wash and thoroughly dry you hands and skin where your prosthesis is to be placed.
- 3. Clean your prosthesis with a soft, bristled toothbrush, mild soap, (ex. Ivory Liquid) and warm water.

#### **Applying Your Prosthesis**

- 1. If adhesive is used, it should be applied with a cotton tipped swab by evenly spreading a thin layer of the adhesive along the outer edges of the back side of your prosthesis according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 2. Allow the adhesive to reach its proper reapplication state depending on the type of adhesive used (ex. dried clear for Pros-Aide).
- 3. Using a mirror, carefully position and press your prosthesis onto your skin to ensure good contact.

#### **Removing Your Prosthesis**

- 1. Remove your prosthesis from you skin on a daily basis to keep your tissues healthy and to maintain hygiene. Grasp the thickest edge of your prosthesis and gently remove it very slowly so as not to tear the edges or irritate your skin.
- 2. If necessary, use a moist washcloth over the surface of the prosthesis to loosen adhesive from your skin.

#### **Cleaning Your Prosthesis**

- 1. If adhesive was used, remove it gently rolling the adhesive off the prosthesis (starting from the center to the outer edges) with your fingertips, using gauze or textured cloth. Soaking the prosthesis in a cup of warm water helps to soften adhesive and makes it easier to remove.
- 2. Clean the prosthesis with a soft, bristled toothbrush, mild soap (ex. Ivory), and warm water.
- 3. Remove any traces of adhesive or oil by gently wiping the tissue side with a gauze or soft-textured cloth moistened with rubbing alcohol. Repeat this step using a gauze or soft-textured cloth moistened with Listerine on the back side of the prosthesis.
- 4. If your prosthesis has an ocular component, remove and clean it with soap and water. The ocular component should NOT be cleaned with rubbing alcohol. Place a drop of mineral oil on the eye and shine once a week. Replace the eye carefully and adjust the location by squeezing the prosthetic eyelids together.



5. If your prosthesis is retained with magnets, clips, or plastic buttons, take care to clean around each fixture with a soft, bristled brush, soap, and water.

#### **Cleaning Your Skin**

- 1. Wash your face with soap and water after removing the prosthesis and remove any residue of adhesive from the skin. Avoid the use of harsh solvents such as benzene or xylene.
- 2. Apply a moisturizing lotion on nightly basis to restore natural body oils.
- 3. Report any areas of inflammation or irritation to the office or clinic.

#### **Color Changes**

- 1. Avoid smoking, as it will stain and yellow the prosthesis.
- 2. Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight, which can cause color dissolution and weakening of the prosthetic material.
- 3. Avoid the use of strong solvents, such as benzene and xylene, which can cause dissolution and weakening of the prosthetic material.

#### **Storing the Prosthesis**

- 1. Store the prosthesis in a dry, inconspicuous but safe place (for example, a bedside table drawer). Keep it out of the reach of children and animals.
- 2. If you have an orbital prosthesis, store it in an upright position.

#### **Preventing Mishaps**

- 1. Avoid extreme temperature changes, which can cause adhesive to fail.
- 2. Carry extra adhesive and prepackaged alcohol-soaked cotton balls in a small plastic bag.
- 3. Avoid placing the prosthesis in purses or pockets close to items such as ink pens and makeup that could stain it.
- 4. If adhesive are prescribed, be careful not to spill the adhesive bottle. To prevent evaporation, keep the lid tightened when not in use.

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