

## Patient information

### **Maxillofacial Prosthetic Rehabilitation**

Maxillofacial Laboratory Department – Aintree Hospital

#### **Introduction**

This information leaflet explains about prosthetic rehabilitation from the Prosthetists in the Maxillofacial Laboratory following surgery.

#### **What is prosthetic rehabilitation?**

This is specialist rehabilitation using prostheses for patients after cancer surgery, a traumatic injury or defects from birth.

This can be a lifelong commitment by patient and prosthetist to ensure the prosthesis stays fitting and in good condition.

#### **Who provides the service?**

You will be seen by one of the Maxillofacial Prosthetists who are situated in the Maxillofacial Laboratory.

#### **What is a Prosthesis?**

A prosthesis is an artificial replacement for a missing part of the body.

This can be for a missing part such as an ear, nose or an eye.

#### **What are they made from?**

This really depends on where the site of the defect is. If it is a skin defect then it will usually be made of a soft material called silicone.

This is a very skin like material that is soft to touch and can be coloured to match the surrounding skin.

Eye prostheses are made from a material called acrylic (plastic). They are hard and can be highly polished to copy the other eye.

#### **How does the prosthesis stay in place?**

The most common way to keep a prosthesis on is with medical adhesive.

There are different types of adhesive that the prosthetist will advise using depending on the type and site of prosthesis.

Some patients can be fitted with implants in the bone which have magnets above the skin that anchor the prosthesis and hold it in place on the face.

This treatment is not suitable for everyone so each case must be assessed by the consultant.

### **Treatment pathway**

- We aim to see you before surgery to explain the prosthetic procedures.
- After surgery, the area must be allowed to heal. Following this you will have your prosthetic consultation in the Maxillofacial Laboratory. An impression of the area will be taken at this appointment.
- There is a minimum of four appointments required to make a prosthesis.
- You can expect soft tissue changes during the first year after surgery. This can result in changes being made to your prosthesis during this period.
- You will have a 12 month prosthetic review appointment to assess the defect site, fit, and wear of the prosthesis.

### **Caring for your prosthesis**

- The colour of the prosthesis can fade over time. To help keep the colour brighter for longer, avoid leaving the prosthesis in direct sunlight for hours at a time.
- The prosthesis can be stored in an airtight container overnight or when not in use.
- Adhesive retained - The medical adhesive must be cleaned off the prosthesis after it is removed each day. Depending on the adhesive used, either warm soapy water or special adhesive removal wipes will work.
- The edges of the prosthesis may develop small tears over time, this is normal when using the adhesive.
- The adhesive and removal wipes are provided by the Maxillofacial Laboratory and can be posted out when requested.
- Implant retained - If you have an implant-retained prosthesis, it is important that you keep the skin surrounding the implants clean. This can be done by using a soft toothbrush to gently clean around each implant and framework.
- We understand your life-changing surgery may make you feel uncertain about the future. However, we are here to support you throughout your prosthetic rehabilitation.

### **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further information**

### **Contact details for the Maxillofacial Prosthetists**

**Sarah Fleming or Taran Malhotra**

**Maxillofacial Laboratory**

**Tel: 0151 529 4975**

### **Other sources of information on prosthetics**

**Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists and Technologists**

**[www.impt.co.uk](http://www.impt.co.uk)**

**Changing faces**

**[www.changingfaces.org.uk](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk)**

**Merseyside Regional Head and Neck Cancer Centre**

**[www.headandneckcancer.co.uk](http://www.headandneckcancer.co.uk)**

**Aintree Hospital**

**Tel: 0151 529 4975**

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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