

Artificial tears, such as Celluvisc or Tears Again gel, or oily lubricants, such as Sil-Optho or Duratears can help lessen irritation caused by harsh weather, harsh working conditions, or low tear flow (“dry eyes”).

Clean the prosthesis each morning, but remove only occasionally unless there are special problems\*.

Remove it when there are excess secretions.

Removal exposes your eye socket to bacteria. If you have a cold or must stay in dusty areas, you may be forced to remove and clean your prosthesis more frequently.

Once the prosthesis is removed for cleaning, it can take up to three (3) days for your body’s natural lubricants to coat the surface of the prosthesis with soothing secretions. During this time, you may use artificial tears or other lubricants (as described above) to reduce irritation.

**WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY BEFORE REMOVING OR INSERTING YOUR PROSTHESIS**

To remove the eye without a suction cup, tilt your head downward, look up, and press upward with our index finger from the skin below the lower lid.

Removal with a suction cup begins as you wet the suction cup tip and squeeze it. Tilt your head down and spread the lid margin with your fingers. Apply the suction cup to the center of the prosthesis. Pull it up and out from the lower lid and then down from the upper lid. Never try to pull the prosthesis straight out of the socket.

**ALWAYS WET THE PROSTHESIS BEFORE INSERTING IT**

Raise your upper lid. While holding the artificial eye between your thumb and index finger, (or a suction cup), insert the upper portion of the prosthesis ( the Danz prosthesis almost always has a dot or writing on the upper portion above the iris). Release the upper lid.

Then, pull down on the lower lid while pushing up on the prosthesis. Finally, push the prosthesis towards the socket and remove any air that might be trapped behind the artificial eye.

Wash the prosthesis in warm running tap water after each removal, holding it between the tip of the thumb and fingers, gently rub with diluted baby shampoo. A spray of “Obrite” hard contact lens eye glass cleaner can be applied and then rinsed off as a substitute for baby shampoo.

**ALCOHOL, SOLVENTS OR OTHER CHEMICALS WILL DAMAGE THE PROSTHESIS**

Some patients can experience socket contraction if the prosthesis is left out for a period of time, even if this is overnight. When the prosthesis is left out of the socket for a period of time, it should be stored in a sterile saline or balanced salt solution.

Occasionally, you may want to disinfect and clean the surface of the prosthesis. It may be placed in a 3% hydrogen peroxide or “Betadine” or Povidone Iodine aqueous 10% solution. The prosthesis should be immersed in the solution for no longer than 15 minutes\* and then rinsed thoroughly before re-insertion.

The use of a hard contact lens enzymatic cleaner may also be useful in dissolving accumulated deposits (protein) from the surface. Follow instructions on the product.

Finally, the prosthesis should be professionally cleaned and polished at least once a year. Scratches and deposits do accumulate over a period of time and may not be able to be smoothed or eliminated except by your ocularist.

If excessive discharge and irritation persists for more than a few days after polishing, you should see your doctor.

Any follow up service of your prosthesis will be free for a period of one year after completion of service.

(End)

\*Special situations, such as the wearing of a scleral shell prosthesis over a sensitive eye or when there is incomplete closure of the lids upon blinking, may cause the patient to take out the prosthesis more frequently, perhaps even leaving it out at night. You will be advised of this by your doctor or ocularist.

\*Acrylic material does absorb fluid. Immersion in a disinfectant for a long period of time will cause it to be absorbed into the material causing irritation and burning.

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### *CARE OF THE OCULAR PROSTHESIS*

Proper care of your ocular prosthesis will increase your comfort and appearance. Proper care adds life to the expensive plastic eye.

Tears and mucus leave deposits on the eye, and a film develops that dulls it's luster. Also these deposits can irritate your eye socket.

Most daily accumulations can be cleaned without removing the prosthesis from its socket. Daily cleaning can be done in the shower using Johnson's Baby Shampoo. Enzymes in the shampoo break down protein that accumulates on the prosthesis and removes mucus from your eyelids and lashes.

Away from the shower and without removing it, the prosthesis can be rinsed with a sterile saline solution. It can be cleaned with moist cotton swabs or gauze, wiping gently towards the nose. Wiping away from your nose might dislodge or rotate the prosthesis.