

# Finger & Hand Prosthesis Quick Guide



## About Us

Medical Art Resources works with patients who are missing part of the face or body due to excisional cancer surgery, traumatic injury, or birth difference, to create life-like prostheses. Our certified clinical anaplastologists custom-make your prosthesis in our own laboratory ensuring high quality and individual design. No need to worry-we are gentle and nothing we do is painful. We treat our patients like family and make sure your time with us is stress free.

Our team partners with surgeons, hand therapists, orthotists and limb prosthetists to provide the best possible prosthetic outcome.



## Finger and hand prostheses

Prosthetic fingers and hands may be needed due to:

- Traumatic injury - work-related injuries, burns, or other trauma
- Disease such as diabetes or scleroderma
- Congenital or birth difference
- Surgery - cancer or tumor removal

We work closely with patients and their families to determine a prosthetic solution that will be comfortable, life-like, and functional. We design each prosthesis to protect sensitive tissue, improve function, and create a normal appearance. We mimic the texture, color, and translucency of your skin and nails to create prosthetic fingers that closely match your hand anatomy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How do I get started?*

It's never too early to meet with our clinical team for a new patient consultation and evaluation at no cost to you. Contact us as soon as you are ready to gather information. There is no obligation or pressure to proceed with treatment. It's that simple!

### *What should I expect at the new patient consultation?*

You will meet with one of our clinical anaplastologists who will listen to your concerns, examine your affected anatomy, and show you examples of prostheses. Our anaplastologist will describe your options for prosthetic attachment and develop a treatment plan for you. If you are unable to meet with our clinical team in-person, we can schedule an evaluation via Facetime or Skype, or communicate via email or on the phone.

### *What are the limitations of prosthetic reconstruction?*

A finger or hand prosthesis is made from silicone. It is not living tissue and must be removed each night for sleeping. It is important to clean the underlying skin and the prosthesis every day.

### *How often will my prosthesis need to be replaced?*

A prosthesis lasts between 1 and 3 years depending on factors such as method of attachment, work and home environment, sun exposure, skin type, and hygiene. In most cases, we can use an archived mold to reproduce your prosthesis in only 1 or 2 appointments. In cases where there has been growth or changes in contour, we may need to remake your mold.

### *Can nail polish be used on the prosthesis?*

Yes, you can paint the fingernails on most prostheses. We suggest that you avoid gel polishes and use non-acetone nail polish remover.

### *Will my prosthetic finger or hand be covered by medical insurance?*

It's important to remember that "covered" does not always mean *fully paid for*, rather it means that insurance will *pay toward* the total cost of services. Coverage for finger and hand prostheses is more challenging than other types of reconstructive prostheses. Specific procedure codes used to submit insurance claims for prosthetic fingers and hands do not exist. However, if we have documentation regarding medical necessity from your physician we can request prior authorization and will submit a claim for you.



## How does a prosthesis attach?

Our silicone prosthetic fingers and hands rely on suction to stay in place securely by overlapping remaining anatomy. If your finger loss is complete, we may need to band an adjacent finger or overlap the remaining part of the hand to create a glove-style prosthesis.



Right thumb prosthesis attaches securely by banding the hand with compression. A thumb prosthesis can assist with grasp, pinch, and oppositional function.



Individual left index and middle finger prostheses restore finger length to assist with function. It is very common for multiple fingers to be affected by a traumatic injury.



A glove-style prosthesis is an option when finger loss is complete. The prosthetic fingers do not move or bend, but they do help with grasp and oppositional hand function.

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## How is a finger prosthesis made?

Our process requires 4 to 5 appointments which involve these steps:

- We make molds of your hands using gentle materials.
- We modify the patient model and fabricate diagnostic test sockets to evaluate fit.
- The shape of the prosthesis is carefully sculpted in wax as we establish a natural contour.
- Five or more colors are formulated to match your unique skin-tones using health-grade silicone.
- When the sculpture is complete, we fabricate a durable mold which allows for reproduction of the prosthesis.



- We have you try on a prototype version of the prosthesis and then we make modifications until a secure fit is achieved.
- We back-paint the fingernail(s).
- Skin detail is carefully painted into your mold using your custom color formulae.
- We check the prosthesis for precise fit, and delicately paint color details, such as freckling, onto the surface.
- We demonstrate wear and care instructions so that you can use your prosthesis with confidence.



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