



## 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 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 and therapists to provide the best possible prosthetic outcome. When needed, we refer patients to the appropriate specialist.

## How does a nasal prosthesis work?

We create a nasal prosthesis to restore normal contour and improve function for patients who have experienced partial or total loss of their nose to traumatic injury, disease or due to surgical removal of the nose (rhinectomy). We artistically recreate a shape that closely resembles the form of your nose before surgery based on our knowledge of craniofacial anatomy, artistic expertise and photographs that you supply.



The prosthesis is made from a soft silicone to intimately fit the nasal defect. Some nasal defects extend onto the cheek, forehead, upper lip region or may extend into the mouth requiring a midfacial prosthesis. For patients who may have complex and extensive nasal defects, we use our clinical expertise and collaborative partnership with dental specialists to create effective prosthetic solutions.

## What are the benefits of a nasal prosthesis?

In addition to restoring missing anatomy, a nasal prosthesis supports eyeglasses and protects the nasal opening and sinuses. It may also prevent dryness in the nasal cavity and help with speech.

## 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 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.

### How soon can I get my nasal prosthesis after surgery?

Typically we can start the process of making a prosthesis about 6 weeks after surgery. It is important to allow enough time for healing and resolution of swelling. Some patients undergo radiation therapy after surgery to remove the nose, and in some cases we can make an interim, or temporary, prosthesis that can be worn during radiation.

### What are the limitations of prosthetic reconstruction?

A nasal prosthesis is made of silicone. Some patients who wear a nasal prosthesis prefer to wear it while sleeping to protect the nasal opening and to keep the nasal cavity moist. Because a nasal prosthesis is not living tissue, it is still important to remove it daily for cleaning and to clean the underlying skin.

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

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

### Will my prosthesis be covered by medical insurance?

Most reconstructive prostheses are covered by Medicare and health insurance plans. We are patient advocates and, with your permission, we will prior authorize the prosthesis and submit a claim on your behalf once the prosthesis is complete.



*Partial nasal prosthesis that attaches with medical-grade skin adhesive.*

# Nasal Prosthesis Quick Guide

## How does a nasal prosthesis attach?



### Anatomical Retention

After removal of the nose, the remaining opening may allow us to design a prosthesis that slides into place and engages anatomical undercuts for secure attachment with little or no adhesive.

### Medical adhesive

A gentle medical adhesive is painted onto the prosthesis in the morning and cleaned at night when the prosthesis is removed.



### Mechanical Retention

In some cases, a nasal prosthesis may be designed to attach to eyeglasses or a dental device called an obturator. In this case, the prosthesis snaps onto magnets housed in the patient's dental prosthesis, eliminating the need for skin adhesive.



### Craniofacial Bone-anchored Implants

Small titanium screws are surgically implanted into the orbital area during an outpatient hospital procedure. A 3-6 month healing period is required for the implants to bond with bone and provide a stable foundation for your prosthesis. Once the healing period is complete, the prosthesis snaps onto the implants with magnets.

You should discuss with your surgeon whether you are a candidate for implants. Together with your surgeon we identify the ideal location for 2 to 4 implants to ensure the best possible outcome.

## How is a nasal prosthesis made?

Our process requires 3 to 5 appointments which involve these steps:

- Make molds of your nasal region using gentle materials.
- We reference patient photos and sometimes a family member's nasal shape to develop a wax prototype sculpted specifically for each patient.
- Have you try on the wax model to ensure a natural contour and fit.
- Formulate 5 or more colors to match your unique skin-tones using health grade silicone.
- When the sculpture is finalized, we fabricate a durable mold which allows us to reproduce the prosthesis.



- We meticulously paint every skin detail using custom color formulae in your mold.
- We check the prosthetic nose for precise fit, and color details, such as freckling, are delicately painted onto the surface.
- Wear and care instructions are demonstrated so that you can use your prosthesis with confidence.