

Toe 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 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, therapists, podiatrists, and limb prosthetists to provide the best possible prosthetic outcome. When needed, we refer patients to the appropriate specialist.





Toe and Partial Foot Prostheses

Prosthetic toes and partial feet may be needed due to:

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

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 toes that closely match your existing toes.

How does a toe or partial foot prosthesis improve function?

Loss of even a single toe impacts gait and balance and may lead to foot, knee, and hip pain. Custom silicone prosthetic toes restore normal toe length and contour, which may improve foot stability and balance, normalize gait, and reduce tissue breakdown and callus formation.

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 chat via email or on the phone.

What are the limitations of prosthetic reconstruction?

A toe or partial foot prosthesis is made of 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. Prosthetic toes and partial feet are not intended to be worn barefoot. They depend on shoes or sandals for support and to keep the prosthesis in place securely.

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 toenails on most prostheses. We suggest that you avoid gel polishes and use non-acetone nail polish remover.

Will my toe or partial foot prosthesis 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 toe and partial foot prostheses can be more challenging than other types of reconstructive prostheses. Specific procedure codes used to submit insurance claims for prosthetic toes and feet 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 toes and partial feet rely on suction to stay in place securely by overlapping remaining anatomy. If your toe loss is complete, we may need to band an adjacent toe and/or overlap part of the foot.







Left great toe prosthesis wraps around the adjacent toe for secure attachment.







Right great and second toe prosthesis wraps around the adjacent toe and part of the foot for secure attachment.









Individual right great and second toe prostheses slide over the residual toes and are held in place with suction.

Brachymetatarsia

We receive many inquiries from people with brachymetatarsia, a birth difference in which toes are underdeveloped. Prosthetic design can be a challenge especially when the little toes are lifted up in relation to the surrounding toes. We are happy to discuss your specific needs and possible design strategies.









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How is a toe prosthesis made?

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

- We make molds of your feet using gentle materials.
- We modify a model of the patient's foot and fabricate diagnostic test sockets to evaluate fit.
- The shape of the prosthesis is carefully sculpted in wax in order to 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 toenail(s).
- Skin coloration and patterning details are carefully painted into your mold using your custom color formulae.
- We check the prosthesis for precise fit, and delicately paint fine color details onto the surface.
- We demonstrate wear and care instructions so that you can use your prosthesis with confidence.



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