

There are many prosthetic services available today and one of them is the Auricular Prosthesis (Ear). An ear prosthesis artificially restores the ear which has been lost due to radical cancer surgery, amputation, burns and/or congenital defects. The delicate structures remaining after surgery are covered by thin, highly sensitive skin. This soft tissue, being very fragile, must be kept free from irritation and debris from the environment. The protective position of the helix helps to cleanse the air of small particles, which might injure and damage the delicate auricular structure. The function of the prosthetic ear shape is to direct sound waves into the auditory canal and to maintain a proper environment for the inner ear membranes. It normally improves hearing by about 20%. The prosthetic ear will retain eyeglasses, and retain a hearing aid if needed. It also serves as a great psychological benefit in the rehabilitation of the patient.

There are four steps in creating a custom prosthesis.

Step 1: The creation of a custom prosthesis begins with an impression to duplicate the affected area.

Step 2: A clay sculpture recreates the appearance of the natural anatomy.

Step 3: The sculpture is then molded and an elastic material is cast to replicate the image

Step 4: The prosthesis is hand painted and tinted to visually blend with the surrounding anatomy.

On average, the process of requires three office visits and is painless and is conducted in a relaxed office environment. The cost of a prosthesis varies according to the complexity of the product. While the patient is responsible for payment, medical insurance often helps cover costs.