

Instruction

**for the handling
of artificial eyes
made of glass**

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The adjustment of artificial eyes
can be carried out only with appointment.

Consultation days also in:

Arnsberg – Bielefeld – Dortmund – Paderborn – Soest – Wesel
(appointments on demand)

Dear patient!

Artificial eyes made of glass can be worn inconspicuously and unproblematically. Thanks to their lifelike replica they enable a self-confident appearance in public. But please remember: The requirement for that is the correct handling and care of the artificial eye. This is very easy, if you pay attention to the following hints. So, please read this information carefully. In case of doubt contact your ocularist. He will help you with pleasure.

Features of your artificial eye

Your artificial eye was custom-built and is individually designed for your eye socket. It is made of kryolitglass. This high quality glass is ideal for artificial eyes as it contains no lead and its surface is highly resistant to the aggressive tear fluid. Due to these features the eye socket is not burdened by the material.

Artificial eyes are produced hollow or as thin shells. Your ocularist will decide which type fits into your eye socket.

With a good fitting artificial eye there are nearly no limitations in everyday life, for example during work, leisure time and sports. You can even wear your artificial eye during swimming¹. But remember: because of pollution or chlorine in the water you should wear swimming glasses and clean your artificial eye at home.

¹ Exception: Diving. Please consult your ocularist if necessary.

The handling of an artificial eye

The artificial eye should be cleaned carefully once a day. Use only clear hand warm drinking (!) water². Do not use hot or extremely cold water as this might reduce the durability of the material. Never use acid or hard objects to clean the surface.

If the eye is very dirty, you can put it into an alcohol based, antibacterial liquid for about 10 minutes. Do not forget to clean the eye with clear water afterwards. When in doubt, ask your ocularist.

While not wearing your artificial eye, please keep it in a closed **dry** box.

Please note: The artificial eye must not be kept in water or other liquids overnight!

Your ocularist will decide if you can wear your artificial eye during nighttime.

² In countries with lower water quality use non-sparkling mineral water.

Do not clean the prosthesis in the bathroom!

Never remove or clean your artificial eye in the bathroom. If the eye falls onto the floor or into the washbasin it will break immediately (even water in the washbasin does not help).

Take a small plastic bowl full of hand warm water into a room with a carpet instead. Put a soft towel on the table. This is a safe area to clean your artificial eye.

Inserting your artificial eye

Before you insert your artificial eye, clean it carefully. It is easier to insert if it stays wet after cleaning.

Please note: The shorter part of a normal artificial eye points to the nose (see image on page 5). Some artificial eyes have a different shape – your ocularist will explain it individually.

To insert your artificial eye, raise your upper eyelid with your finger, put the upper side of your artificial eye below the eyelid and hold it in this position. Now pull the lower eyelid downwards. The artificial eye should now slide into the eye socket. You might push softly onto the eye with your finger afterwards, because in some cases there might be air behind the artificial eye. This way, the air can escape. Your ocularist will inform you about exceptions concerning your artificial eye.

Removing your artificial eye

Please remember a soft ground (room with a carpet, towel on the table) to guarantee that the artificial eye does not break if it falls down. To remove your artificial eye look upwards. Push the lower eyelid downwards with your forefinger until the lower edge of the artificial eye is uncovered. Put your forefinger beneath the edge of the eye, your middle finger on top of it. Now pull the eye carefully downwards out of the eye socket.

In some cases it is necessary to use a special instrument (for example a small hook) to remove the artificial eye. Your ocularist will advise you individually.

Please note: Wipe or rub your eye towards the nose only. If you wipe or rub in the other direction you might twist or even wipe out the artificial eye.

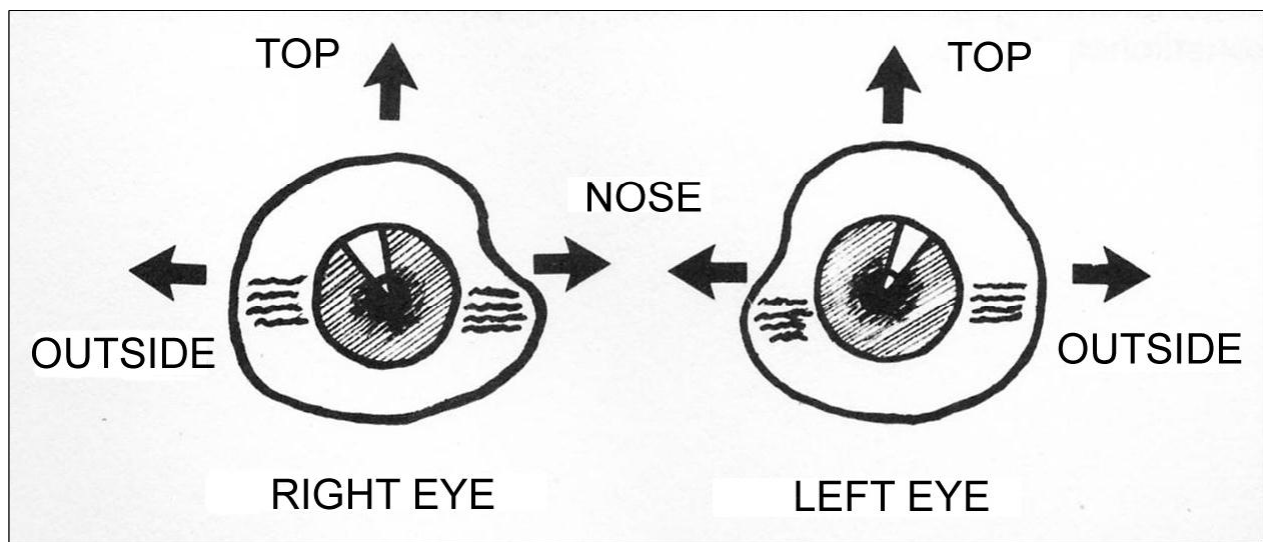


Illustration of an artificial eye made of glass

The durability of your artificial eye

The durability of your artificial eye depends on different factors, for example: environmental impact, condition of the eye socket, intensity of secretion, and so on.

Every prosthesis is subject to corrosion due to the aggressive tear fluid. Thanks to the highly resistant material you can wear your artificial eye **at an average of one year**. But environmental pollution such as dust or chemical substances can reduce the durability of the prosthesis.

A special case is the first prosthesis you receive after the operation. It can only be worn for **about 3 months** because the eye socket still changes its shape during the healing process.

A worn out artificial eye can cause troubles in your eye socket. The rough surface of the prosthesis can highly irritate the skin layer. A first indication to replace your artificial eye is an increasing amount of tear fluid. Further symptoms can be a reddened eye socket and intensified secretion.

At regular intervals you should have your eye socket checked by your eye specialist. Once a year your artificial eye should be replaced by your ocularist to avoid problems and to ensure that your eye always fits comfortably.

Please note: Because children are still growing, their artificial eyes must be replaced far more often. Please ask your ocularist.

Some general hints

- Always get an appointment if you need a new artificial eye.
- A damaged artificial eye can not be repaired but must be replaced immediately by your ocularist.
- In case of a broken artificial eye pick up **all** pieces, so your ocularist may reconstruct the eye and use it as model for a new one.
- A personal appearance is necessary to fabricate an optimally fitting artificial eye.
- Your artificial eye is individually designed for your eye socket. But if there should be any problems after the appointment, please contact your ocularist **immediately**.