

Is Mucus Discharge Normal?

Yes, mucus discharge is normal in the first few months following surgery. Some patients will always experience a slight discharge of mucus.

What Are the Warning Signs of Infection?

A discharge of green or yellow pus often means an infection is present. Removal of the prosthesis would reveal bright red inflamed tissue of the eye socket. If you suspect infection, call your ophthalmologist.

Is the Prosthesis to Be Routinely Removed?

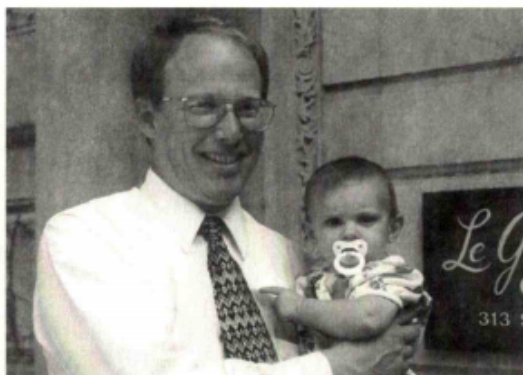
We recommend removal on a weekly basis so as to help the child overcome any fear. We teach all our patients the easy process of insertion and removal.

Your Visit to LeGrand Associates

We have taken care of many pediatric patients, so we know that you, the parents, have been through quite an ordeal. However, the visit to your ocularist is likely to be a happy day! It's the start of rehabilitation and the restoring of normal appearance.

Because children are sensitive to their parents' cues, we encourage you to look forward with positive anticipation to the appointment. Since you will be at our office from three to six hours, we remind you to bring refreshments or lunch for your children, as well as favorite toys and books.

Generally, the fitting of a prosthetic eye is painless and can be accomplished in our office without difficulty. In exceptional cases, arrangements may have to be made to fit the new prosthetic eye at the hospital under anesthesia. Please call us with any questions or concerns.



Our patient, with her first prosthesis comfortably fitted, points to her ocularist at LeGrand Associates.

LeGrand Associates

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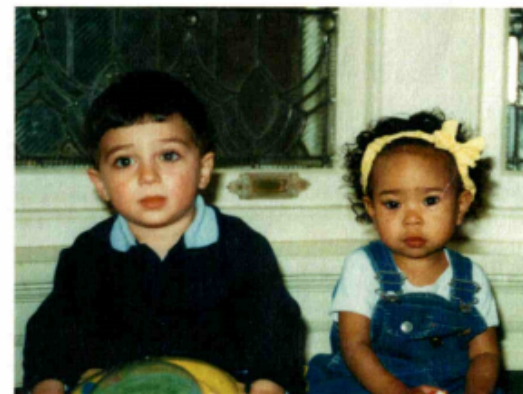


J. Michel

For further information and directions to our offices, visit our website at www.legrandeyes.net.

makers of fine prosthetics since 1953

The Pediatric Patient



Two patients, each comfortably fitted with a new prosthesis, take a break during their visit to LeGrand Associates.

A Guide for Parents

from

LeGrand Associates
Ocularists

LeGrand Associates

Taking care of the younger patient is a specialty at LeGrand Associates. We give the following information in answer to questions frequently asked by parents of children born with anophthalmia or microphthalmia, or who have had enucleation [surgical removal of the eye]. If you have any further questions, feel free to ask your ocularist or ophthalmologist.



A pleased parent admires the fit of her baby's new prosthesis.

What is the Prosthetic Eye?

For the best possible color match and fit, the custom eye is unparalleled. This is a prosthesis (an artificial eye) that is manufactured step by step, with each detail designed to match the wearer's companion eye. Eyes fitted by LeGrand Associates are made of plastic throughout. This includes the paint, iris, and sclera. The prostheses are made by men and women artisans whose training enables them to make an accurate fitting of the eye socket and duplicate in paints an

authentic replica of the human iris. A significant advantage of the plastic prosthesis is that it can be altered later. When the shape of a person's socket changes, a prosthetic eye can be enlarged or reduced to accommodate these changes. Typically, a child's prosthesis can be enlarged one or two times before we recommend replacement because of growth.

What is the implant?

The implant is a sphere implanted in the orbit at the time of enucleation. The implant is buried beneath muscle and other tissue, and, normally, is not visible. The implant replaces most of the lost volume of the original eye and facilitates movement of the new eye. Movement, which is limited at first, often increases, especially with children.

(A cross section of the orbit after enucleation surgery. The eye muscles are attached to the spherical implant. Either a conformer or prosthesis rests behind the eyelids, in front of the implant.)



What is a conformer?

After surgery, the ophthalmologist usually places a conformer in your child's eye socket. The conformer is a slightly convex plastic shield which helps in the healing process. Since the conformer is held in place by just the eyelids, it can easily be removed for fitting a prosthetic eye. It rests so gently behind the lids that it could become dislodged before your visit to the ocularist. If this happens, wash the conformer with soap and water, and reinsert.

If you're concerned, telephone your doctor for advice. The doctor may even suggest leaving the conformer out until your arrival at our office.

How much healing time is required before the first visit to the ocularist?

About six weeks' time is required.

How many visits are required to complete the prosthesis?

The prosthesis can be made in approximately six hours if there are no complications. This may be scheduled as a one-day visit or as two half-day visits. A short follow-up visit usually takes place a month later.

How often should we come in for checkup visits?

We recommend return visits every six months for children six and under. This allows us to add to the size of the new eye as your child grows. We advise an annual visit for children who are more than six years of age.

When will our child need a new prosthesis?

Depending on the rate of growth, children under three years of age may require a replacement of their prosthetic eye in one to three years. Children over three years of age may require a replacement in three to four years.

