

Ocular prostheses: An aid or an obstacle for the oculoplastic surgeon? A checkpoint protocol for the surgeon

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Aim: Ocular prostheses for an anophthalmic socket or a phthisic eye should fulfill certain requirements to maintain long-term fitting and physiology of the adnexal tissues. Materials, surface quality and fitting need to follow the rules of contact lens fitting in order to avoid complications. Fitting decisions can either be an aid to the surgeon aiming at a symmetric aesthetic result or a cause of complications, sometimes difficult to cope with surgically.

Material & Methods: All aspects of ocular prostheses construction and fitting are analyzed in order to provide the surgeon with a tool for better planning of treatment. Awareness towards collaboration between the surgeon and the ocularist is also raised. A checkpoint protocol is presented regarding the material, surface treatment, peripheral socket fitting, shape evaluation, underlying tissue evaluation, lower and upper lid interaction and possible tissue laxation.

Results: The checkpoint protocol can be a valuable tool for communication and end result expectations for the oculoplastic surgeon and the ocularist, working in collaboration for prosthetic rehabilitation.

Conclusion: Knowledge of the prosthetic aspects, capabilities or limitations, are vital aiming to better aesthetic and functional results and satisfied patients on long-term basis.