THE REMOVAL OF AN EYE (enucleation/evisceration)

After the removal of an eye, to accommodate for the loss of volume in most cases an orbital implant is surgically inserted by the eye specialist in order to fill out the orbit and prevent further pathological problems. Approximately four to six weeks post-operatively the patient can then be fitted with an ocular prosthesis with a three dimensional fit.

THE OCULAR PROSTHESIS

The ocular prosthesis, commonly known as an artificial eye can be made from glass or acrylic.

THE ACRYLIC EYE PROSTHESIS

Acrylic (Methyl Methacrylate) is an extremely hard substance. This type of prosthesis is manufactured from an impression taken of the socket and custom designed to match the overall cosmesis of the existing eye. The acrylic ocular prosthesis is generally replaced every five to eight years due to socket tissue changes. It is possible to modify the existing prosthesis within the first three years should socket changes occur earlier than normal.

THE SCLERAL OR HAPTIC SHELL

A scleral shell or scleral lens is a flush fitting, thin artificial eye usually fitting over a patient’s own shrunken eye, called Phthisis bulbi. It is a large lens fitting over the white of the eye as well as the cornea, thus called a scleral shell since the white of the eye is called sclera. They can be used for aesthetic reasons but can often be used therapeutically for corneal protection, tear retention and pain relief in ocular surface disorders. It can also be called a Haptic Shell, meaning simply that it touches on the eye.

THE OCULAR PROSTHESIS & CHILDREN

When fitting a child with either a glass or acrylic eye prosthesis, a new prosthesis is required at regular intervals during the growing years in order to have the socket and prosthesis shape and size keep pace with the changes occurring in the facial bone structure.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE TYPE:

It is important to see your Ocularist every year for the polishing of the ocular prosthesis. It improves comfort and ensures good socket health. This depends on the individual and the type of prosthesis. It is suggested to follow the regimen prescribed by your Ocularist. Please also feel free to browse the website at www.oasa.org.za

THE ACRYLIC STOCK EYE PROSTHESIS

Ocularists also supply and fit stock eye prostheses. These are not individually designed but usually chosen from a fitting set by the Ocularist. It is possible to adjust an acrylic stock eye for a better cosmetic result and best comfort.

THE GLASS EYE PROSTHESIS

A glass artificial eye is made of a specially produced silicate glass. The Ocularist begins with a glass globe with a finished iris and cornea, and it takes approximately an hour to complete the prosthesis. The glass prosthesis must be replaced every 1-2 years. It is not possible to polish or modify a glass artificial eye.

THE OCULARISTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Association represents the co-ordinating body for disciplines related to the rehabilitation of the patients suffering from all forms of Ocular and Orbital trauma resulting in either blindness or loss of either one or both eyes.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ocularists aim is, through an eye prosthesis not only to restore lost orbital and ocular contours and function, but also to buoy the spirit of the patient.

The Association aims to endeavour to sustain and further develop the working relationship held with Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons and Maxillo-facial Surgeons in order to achieve the best possible treatment in holistic rehabilitation of patients.

OMBUDSMAN

The Ocularists Association of Southern Africa has appointed Mr Harry Rosen as Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is available to both Ocularists and patients alike in order to maintain an open and honest work ethic in Ocularistry. The ombudsman can be contacted on 0833793374 or ombudsman@oasa.org.za.