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FACTS YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
ABOUT
YOUR NEW
LOOK

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Here are the questions most women ask about breast implants and the answers.

If you are thinking about having breast implants, then join the hundreds of thousands of modern women who already have them. And hundreds of thousands more who will soon. Of course, you can look the way you wish. And be a totally happier woman. The procedure, when done by a qualified surgeon, is considered quite simple. (As you read through, keep in mind questions you might want to discuss in more detail with your surgeon.)

Q. Is this breast operation dangerous?

A. Any surgery carries some risk, however, surgeons doing breast implants in a modern surgical facility do not consider it dangerous.

Q. Can breast implants cause cancer?

A. In the hundreds of thousands of cases where breast implants

have been used, there have been no reported cases where cancer was attributed to the implant.

Q. Does a breast implant leave unsightly scars?

A. Whenever the skin is cut, a scarline remains after healing. Normally, the small scar that remains is not easily seen. It is under the breast fold. Or in the areola (the brown ring area around the nipple). Or in the natural crease under the arm.

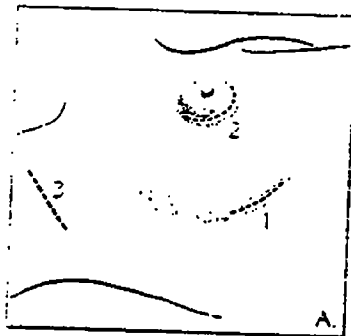
Q. How is the size of the implant determined?

A. By discussion with your surgeon. Your surgeon wants your new breast to have a pleasing, balanced appearance in proportion to your shoulders, your rib cage and hips.

Q. How long will the implants last?

A. Based on laboratory findings and human experiences to date, a gel-filled breast implant should last for a lifetime.

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Q. How is the operation performed?

A. There are three ways to place an implant: through an (1.) inframammary incision (an opening made in the hidden fold beneath the breast), through an (2.) areolar incision (an opening made in the areola), or through a (3.) transaxillary incision (an opening made in the armpit).

Based on your surgeon's experience, awareness of your specific needs and dedication to your welfare and personal satisfaction,

he/she will discuss with you which incision might be best for you.

When implanted according to surgical techniques and procedures widely accepted by surgeons, the breast implant has been well tolerated by hundreds of thousands of patients. Each surgeon must, of course, evaluate and use the right implant and right procedure for the individual patient based on the patient's medical history and the surgeon's own medical and surgical training and experience.

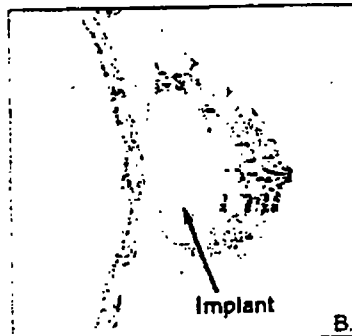
Q. Does the implant prevent breast feeding?

A. No. The implant is placed between the breast gland and the pectoral muscle and does not interfere with the normal functioning of the milk ducts.

Note: Illustration B shows the placement of the implant between the breast glands and the chest wall.

Q. Will I still have feeling in my breasts and nipples?

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A. There will be reduced feeling right after surgery. With few exceptions, experience shows sensation in both areas will improve in a few months.

Q. What is the implant made of?

A. It is made of a soft silicone bag filled with either a soft silicone gel about the consistency of gelatin or a sterile saline solution. Both fillers are well tolerated by the body.

Q. What holds the implants in place?

A. During the normal healing process, the body forms a tissue capsule around the implants. Once formed, this holds the implants in place. Your surgeon may decide to use implants with fixation patches for additional tissue in-growth.

Q. Can I expect any problems with my breasts after implant surgery?

A. Although thousands of women have implant surgery each year, each person's reaction to surgery and implantation can be different. Your surgeon is the best and most reliable authority on this question. Do not hesitate to review this with him/her.

Q. What happens after surgery?

A. A simple dressing is placed over the incision. Then, your surgeon may recommend a good brassiere for support.

Q. How will I feel?

A. Naturally you may feel "woozy" as the anesthetic wears off. You may feel some soreness, swelling

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or discomfort, but this is quite natural. You may also feel tired and exhausted after surgery, but this and the soreness is normal and will last only a short while.

Q. How long will it be before I can start normal activities?

A. Following surgery, your surgeon will give you specific instructions regarding your participation in everyday activities, athletics and sexual relations. He/she may recommend a support brassiere.

Sutures are usually removed in

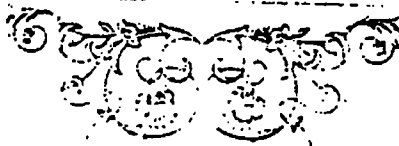
about 10 days. At this time, your surgeon will advise you on resuming daily activities and discuss the need for a brassiere.

Q. How much will the entire procedure cost?

A. Fees will vary. You should ask your surgeon.

Q. Is a breast implant covered by medical insurance?

A. This too can vary. It is a good idea to check with your insurance company ahead of time, if you have questions.



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Questions To Ask My Surgeon

You may have other questions we didn't cover here. Be sure to write them down in the space below so you don't forget to ask them when talking with your surgeon.

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Instructions From My Surgeon

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