



breasts

The saline solution for breast enhancement

SYDNEY PLASTIC SURGEON
DR DARRYL HODGKINSON
EXPLAINS THE BENEFITS OF
SALINE BREAST IMPLANTS.

After performing breast augmentation surgery for more than 30 years and having used every reputable type of breast implant through every incision possible, I have realised the benefits of breast augmentation but also the limitations of the procedure.

Over the years the implant which has given me the least amount of problems and the most satisfied patients with the least amount of worry and angst has been the saline implant. While the saline implant is not necessarily good for everybody, I believe it holds numerous advantages over silicone implants.

The main advantage of the saline implant is that there is very little reaction to the implant – you cannot have any fill in an implant less reactive than saline. Another advantage is that the saline implant has never been taken off the market; there has never been a saline scare and that is of great solace to patients having breast implant surgery.

The third most significant advantage of the saline implant is that because it comes uninflated it can be inserted through small distant incisions, which means it can be used in the TUBA (transumbilical breast augmentation) incision and through the axillary incisions in the armpits. It is particularly Asian patients (most commonly due to a higher incidence of keloid scarring on the breast) and models (who do not wish to have any telltale marks on their breasts) who like the incision hidden and therefore request the axillary and sometimes TUBA approach. Only the saline implant can be used this way.

There are also some particular aesthetic advantages to the saline implant. The implant, as one patient said, has “the jelly factor”, so that when the patient moves the breast that is very much like natural breast tissue. Gel implants, on the other hand, have very little, if any, movement.

The saline implant remains much more popular in the United States than in Australia and I think that is basically because many of the surgeons in the US had to become familiar with the saline implant after the silicone implant was removed from the market in 1992. Once they became familiar with the implant, the surgeons were happy with the results.

The rate of capsular contraction or hardness with the saline implants is also particularly low and therefore a further significant advantage to patients, meaning they are unlikely to develop a hardness around the implant and a deformity to the shape of the implant.

The saline implant comes in exactly the same sizes and shapes as the silicone implant. The saline implant has exactly the same rate of rupture as the gel implant. The difference with the saline implant is, however, that the implant deflates so that the patient knows a rupture has

occurred and can have the implant replaced as opposed to having it leak slowly over a period of time. The further advantage again is that the patient has a material in her body which is naturally occurring – sterile saltwater – as opposed to a foreign substance – silicone gel.

We all know that having breast implants at an early age does not mean that it is a once in a lifetime procedure and the suggestions are now that, especially with gel implants, the implants be monitored regularly with a view to having them changed on a regular basis every 10 years. There is not a suggestion to change without cause, such as deflation with the saline implant.

Although there is no perfect implant, for patients who are realistic, do not want too big a result, and are not too thin, the saline implant is an ideal solution to breast enhancement. **csbm**

Before



BEFORE

After



AFTER saline breast implant surgery by Dr Hodgkinson



BEFORE



AFTER saline breast implant surgery by Dr Hodgkinson