



## **INFORMED-CONSENT BREAST IMPLANT REMOVAL SURGERY**

**INSTRUCTIONS** – This is an informed-consent document that has been prepared to help your plastic surgeon inform you about breast implant removal surgery, its risks, and alternative treatments.

It is important that you read this information carefully and completely. Please initial each page, indicating that you have read the page and sign the consent for surgery as proposed by your plastic surgeon.

**GENERAL INFORMATION** – The removal of breast implants that have been placed either for cosmetic or reconstructive purposes is a surgical operation. Breast implant removal may be performed as a surgical procedure or combined with additional procedures such as:

- Removal of scar tissue surrounding the breast implant
- Breast biopsy
- Removal of escaped silicone gel
- Secondary breast augmentation
- Breast lift (mastopexy)

Implants that are found to be damaged or ruptured cannot be repaired; surgical removal or replacement is recommended. There are options concerning general versus local anesthesia for breast implant removal.

There are both risks and complications associated with this operation.

**ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT** – Alternative forms of non-surgical management consist of not undergoing breast implant removal or additional procedures.

**RISKS OF SURGERY FOR BREAST IMPLANT REMOVAL**- Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk, and it is important that you understand the risks involved with breast implant removal. An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. While the majority of women do not experience these complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications and consequences of breast implant removal surgery.

PATIENT INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

**BLEEDING** – It is possible, though unusual, to experience a bleeding episode during or after surgery. Should post-operative bleeding occur, it may require emergency treatment to drain accumulated blood (hematoma). DO NOT take any ibuprofen, aspirin or anti-inflammatory medications for ten days or more before your surgery, as this may increase the risk of bleeding.

**INFECTION** – Infection is unusual after this type of surgery. It may appear in the immediate post-operative period or at any time following the removal of a breast implant. Subacute or chronic infections may be difficult to diagnose. Should an infection occur, treatment including antibiotics, possible removal of the implant, or additional surgery may be necessary. Infections with the presence of a breast are harder to treat than infections in normal body tissues. If an infection does not respond to antibiotics, the breast implant may have to be removed. After the infection is treated, the new breast implant can usually be reinserted. It is extremely rare that an infection would occur around an implant from a bacterial infection elsewhere in the body, however, prophylactic antibiotics may be considered for subsequent dental or other surgical procedures.

**CHANGE IN NIPPLE OF SKIN SENSATION** – Some change in nipple sensation is not unusual right after surgery. After several months, most patients have normal sensation. Partial or permanent loss of nipple and skin sensation may occur.

**SKIN SCARRING** – Excessive scarring is uncommon. In rare cases, abnormal scars may result. Scars may be unattractive or different color than surrounding skin. Additional surgery may be needed to treat abnormal scarring after surgery.

**FIRMNESS**- Excessive firmness of the breasts can occur after surgery due to internal scarring. The occurrence of this is not predictable.

**SEROMA** – Tissue fluid may accumulate in the space where the breast implant was located. Additional treatment or surgery may be necessary to remove this fluid.

**IMPLANTS** – Breast implants, similar to other medical devices, can fail. Implants can break or leak. When a saline-filled implant deflates, its salt water filling will be absorbed by the body. Rupture can occur as a result of an injury, from no apparent cause, or during mammography. It is possible to damage an implant at the time of surgery. Damage or broken implants cannot be repaired. Ruptured or deflated implants require replacement or removal. Calcification around implants can occur and may require removal of the scar tissue surrounding the implant. It may not be possible to completely remove the scar tissue that has been formed around the breast implant or silicone gel.

**MAMMOGRAPHY**- It's important to continue to have regular mammography examinations and to perform periodic breast self-examination. Should a breast lump be detected with either a mammography or self-examination, please contact your physician.

PATIENT INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_