



Dr Michael WEYMOUTH

PLASTIC SURGEON MBBS FRACS (PLAS)



Dr Mansoor MIRKAZEMI

COSMETIC & PLASTIC SURGEON B.MED.SCI MBBS FRACS (PLAS)

SAFETY FIRST

THE LATEST ON BREAST AUGMENTATION RISKS

Mr. Michael Weymouth places a great deal of importance in providing patient education, as well as impeccable standards and processes, to maximise patient safety and outcomes with all of his procedures. Michael believes that this is particularly relevant in breast augmentation surgery, where it is vital that the patient feels well informed and in safe hands. Two topical issues are PIP implants and breast implant-associated lymphoma.

Recently, a breast implant made by the French company, Poly Implant Protheses (PIP) created controversy when it was recalled from the market following safety concerns. Unapproved material was used to fill the implants and the effect of this non-medical grade silicon on the body has not been evaluated and the long term effects are unknown.

The Australian government provides funding through Medicare to evaluate the structural integrity of PIP implants with MRI imaging. It also provides a rebate to remove and replace an implant where there are physical i.e. 'rupture' or psychological i.e. 'severe anxiety' reasons. This will not cover the entire surgical, anaesthetic, hospital or implant costs and would also need to be discussed with each private health fund as to their individual policy.

Michael only uses implants from well-established companies that are industry leaders amongst their peers. These are covered by warranties and by complying with the national breast registry can ensure a high degree of scrutiny and transparency. Unfortunately, this is not often the case in augmentations performed overseas. There are certainly many well-known cases of overseas facilities cutting corners by using cheap and inferior implants, as they are not subject to the strict industry safety standards that we are in Australia.

The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has put out a white paper discussing the safety of silicon-filled breast implants and their association with a rare form of lymphoma. Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) is an immune cell cancer and it is very important to distinguish this from breast cancer, which it is

not. It is very rare, with approximately 150 cases known world wide, from approximately 15 million implants used. Whilst it is a cancer and potentially very serious, the risk of developing it with breast implants is extremely small and needs to be put into perspective.

The lifetime risk for a woman developing breast cancer is now 1 in 8, which is an average yearly rate of 1539 per million women. For every one million women that have a breast augmentation, 1 woman will develop ALCL per year and in that one million women, two will be struck by lightning.

Whilst ALCL is a real entity and should be disclosed to someone considering breast augmentation, it is important to show it's much rarer than breast cancer and is not as common as being struck by lightning.

It is through information and understanding that Michael provides reassurance and confidence to his patients having breast augmentation surgery.



Collins
Plastic Surgery

SURGICAL PROCEDURES

- Facial aesthetic procedures
- Nasal Refinement
- Breast surgery – cosmetic and reconstructive
- Abdominoplasty (tummy tuck)
- Body contouring
- Skin cancer and hand surgery

NON-SURGICAL PROCEDURES

- Anti-wrinkle treatment
- Fillers
- Skin needling
- Skin care
- Facial peels

BREAST IMPLANTS

SOFT, WATERY, GUMMY BEAR OR FURRY?

When considering breast augmentation important matters such as implant size, scar position, and surgical plane are often discussed. However, Dr Mansoor Mirkazemi of Collins Street Plastic Surgery believes the 'type of implant' is one of the most important topics to discuss.

SALINE IMPLANTS

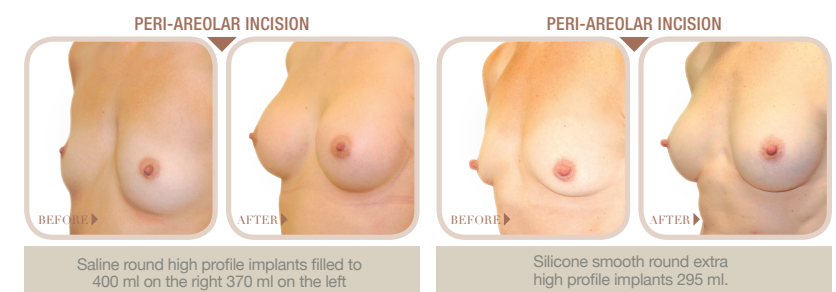
These are the safest implants available. If they rupture, the body will absorb the saline and there is no risk. Saline implants are inserted empty via smaller incisions and then filled with saline, so the volume is adjustable, allowing better control to achieve symmetry. The capsular contracture and re-operation rate is lower compared with silicone implants, however, they can ripple more, so obvious wrinkles may become evident. Overfilling the implant can deal with this though they will then become firmer and rounder. Dr Mansoor uses them in his practice if the patient is concerned about the safety of silicone implants. They are also a great option for women with a moderate amount of breast tissue in whom the ripples are not going to show. As most Australian surgeons are not familiar with saline implants, it is important to speak to one with knowledge and experience.

SOFT GEL IMPLANTS

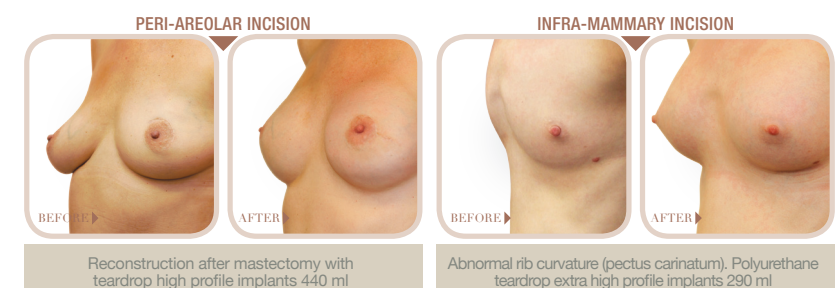
These are usually smooth round implants filled with soft 'liquid' silicone. The best thing about these implants is that they feel very soft and natural, the edges are hardly palpable and they move with the breast. Because the gel is soft, a hole or tear in the implant means the gel would escape from its shell easier which would result in capsular contracture. This at the very least would require corrective surgery. These days, new technologies have led to the shells being much stronger and the soft gel is more cohesive (less 'runny') leading to better outcomes.

GUMMY BEARS

These implants have highly cohesive silicone gel inside, like gummy bears. If the implant ruptures, the silicone stays mostly within the shell. All teardrop implants have this type of gel to maintain the shape. These implants give a more natural



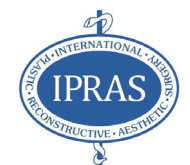
DR MANSOOR HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN ALL TYPES OF IMPLANTS AND WILL COMPLETELY INVOLVE YOU TO MAKE AN INFORMED AND APPROPRIATE SELECTION.



look to the top half of the breast and don't stretch the breast tissue over time as much. However, they feel firmer and don't move as naturally. Dr Mansoor uses these in some augmentations and in all breast reconstructions after mastectomy when the teardrop breast shape needs to be created.

THE FURRY

These are silicone filled implants coated with 'furry' polyurethane foam. The coating, which dissolves in around six months, changes the scar tissue around the implant into a three dimensional matrix, reducing the capsular contracture rate significantly. The furry coat acts like Velcro, stopping the implant from moving which is an advantage when using teardrop shaped implants. These require a larger incision for insertion and precise positioning and orientation during surgery is vital. They also take a few months to soften. Occasionally an itchy rash appears which responds well to antihistamines.



A Level 8, 267 Collins Street Melbourne 3000 | Ph (03) 9016 7822 | W www.collinsstplasticsurgery.com.au