



What is the risk of complications?

- **Silicone Material**

Silicone is derived from silicon, a semi-metallic or metal-like element that in nature combines with oxygen to form silicon dioxide, or silica. Beach sand, crystals, and quartz are silica. Silica is the most common substance on earth. Heating silica with carbon at a high temperature can produce silicon. Further processing can convert the silicon into a long chemical chain, or polymer, called silicone – which can be a liquid, a gel, or a rubbery substance. Various silicones are used in lubricants and oils, as well as in silicone rubber. Silicone can be found in many common household items, such as polishes, suntan and hand lotion, antiperspirants, soaps, processed foods, waterproof coatings, and chewing gum.

Safety of Silicone

Special studies have been done and have determined that much higher levels of silicone have been found in cows' milk and commercially available infant formula than are found in the breast milk of women with implants. The Institute of Medicine concluded that "There is no evidence that silicone implants are responsible for any major diseases of the whole body. Women are exposed to silicone constantly in their daily lives."

Breast Cancer

No studies have ever shown this to be a concern for humans. There is no evidence that implants cause cancer.

Mammography

Breast implants may interfere with finding breast cancer during mammography and may make mammography more difficult. It is important that you tell your mammographer [er](#) that you have an implant before the procedure. Special displacement techniques and additional views may be required. Discuss any family history of breast cancer with your doctor.

Silicone Allergy

It is possible for anyone to develop an allergy to almost any substance on earth, however silicone allergies are very rare. We are all exposed to silicone in our environment everyday. It is found in many household items, such as polishes, suntan and hand lotion, antiperspirants, soaps, processed foods, waterproof coatings, and chewing gum.

Implant Life Expectancy

Implants are not lifetime devices; therefore it is likely that they may need to be replaced sometime in your life. The time period varies from woman to woman. Some women need replacement surgery in only a few years while others may go 10-20 years. There are several different reasons why a woman might need replacement surgery. Sometimes it is a matter of choice, such as a size change or an implant style change, and sometimes removal and replacement is necessary because of complication, such as deflation, or shifting of the implant.

Recover / Activities / Exercise

Your doctor will be your best guide regarding how long you will need to remain off work and will advise you when and how to resume activities. Recovery periods vary from woman to woman. Generally the first few days are the most uncomfortable. The average time to return to full activities is four to six weeks.

It is important not to perspire excessively while the wound is healing. Therefore minimize activities and sun tanning until after the incision has healed and sealed. Don't overdo activity, especially of the upper body, too early. Let your body rest and heal. You want to minimize swelling around the implant.

Going into a Jacuzzi or bath after a month is usually ok. During the early time, one to two weeks following surgery, you don't want to soak the incision.

Be sure you check with your doctor before returning to your workouts. Patients vary greatly in recovery times. Walking is generally recommended to encourage circulation. The larger the implant you receive the heavier the breasts will be. You should wear good support bras to minimize pull on the skin and ptosis (drooping) of the breast.

Tanning Salon / Sun Bath

Tanning at salon or sun bathing will not hurt the implant but may make the scars worse. You should avoid exposure to sun or tanning rays to the incisions for at least one year after surgery as ultraviolet light will turn the scar dark permanently.

It is natural for the implant to feel warm and slow to cool down than your body after exposing your body to heat from any source such as sun baking to long hot showers.

Flying / Scuba Diving

Many women scuba dive and fly in airplanes with implants. There may be slight expansion and contraction of the shell with changes in pressure. This may result in a small amount of air bubbles in the implant. With gel implants as with saline filled implants you may feel or hear fluid sounds (gurgling). This should correct itself within 24-48 hours.

Breast Movement

This depends upon multiple factors, such as the type of implant you receive, the pocket dissection, the way your body holds the implant and whether or not there is any degree of capsular contracture. It is possible for many women to have breast implants that are soft and move nicely, while other women have results that are firmer with an implant more fixed in position.

Implant Weight

The weight of an implant varies with size and fills volume. A 250 cc implant filled with 250 cc of gel weighs approximately 250 grams.

Stretch Marks

Insertion of implants can cause stretch marks but rarely does. If you are concerned, go for a smaller size implant to minimize the stretching of the skin, or choose a Spectrum adjustable implant to slowly stretch the skin over time.

Smoking Effects

Smoking causes the blood vessels to constrict, reducing the blood supply and the oxygen carried by the blood to the surgical area. The tissues need this blood supply and the oxygen that the blood carries in order to heal. When the blood supply is reduced the tissues heal more slowly. Different doctors have different time frames for patients to refrain from smoking before and after surgery. We hear anything from five weeks prior and after, to one to two weeks prior and after. Ask your doctor how long he/she would like you to stop smoking before and after your surgery.

Nipple Sensation

There can be changes in nipple sensation after implant surgery. Feeling in the nipple and breast can increase or decrease. The range of change varies from no feeling to intense feeling and can be temporary or permanent.

Weight Gain or Loss

You should be closed to your ideal weight. A significant loss of weight after receiving breast implants could alter the results in a manner that is not satisfactory to you. There could be some ptosis (drooping) and a reduction in size. A significant gain in weight could cause an increase in breast size.

Age

General good health is important, not age.

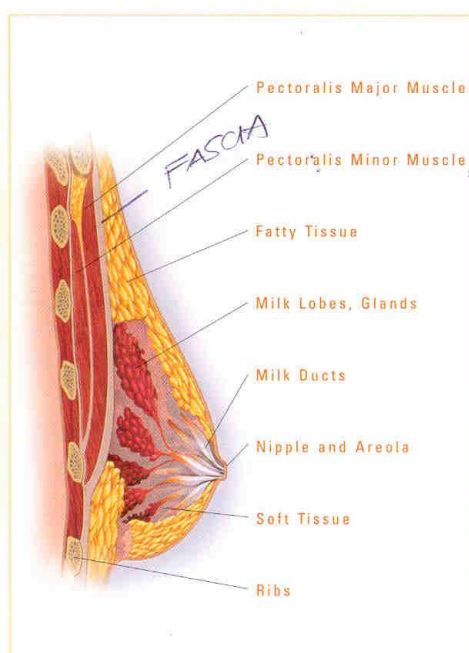
Pregnancy

Every woman is an individual and therefore has different results whether before a pregnancy or after. Your breasts will enlarge and will go through all the usual changes associated with pregnancy. The amount of enlargement will vary from woman to woman and the size of the implants will factor into this as well.

Breast Feeding

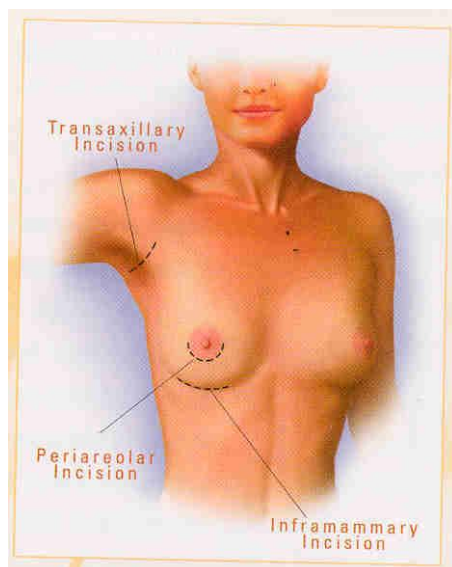
Many women with breast implants have successfully breast fed their babies. Current studies indicate that women with breast implants, either gel or saline, do not have any higher levels of silicone in their milk than women without breast implants. Breast implants can, however, interfere with the ability of some women to breast-feed. The peri-areola incision site is more likely to affect the ability. Some women experience mastitis, inflammation in the breast ducts, during this time, which can also cause capsular contracture. Taking antibiotics when symptoms first appear may minimize the potential for this problem. You should always report signs of inflammation to your physician.

Anatomy of the Breast



The breast is made up of fatty, glandular and fibrous tissues. Inside of it are blood vessels, milk ducts, fat, glands and sensory nerves. Beneath the breast is the *pectoralis major*, which is large muscle that assists in arm movement.

- **Incision and Placement Choices**



Incisions

Breast augmentation is normally performed using one of three common incision sites: around the nipple (periareolar), within the breast fold (inframammary) or under the arm (axillary).

Periareolar: This incision offers the benefit of being the most concealed. However, it might cause some interference with breast feeding.

Inframammary: This incision is very popular because it is concealed in the skin fold below the breast.

Axillary: This incision is less concealed, but it might be a good for women who do not want any scars on their breasts.

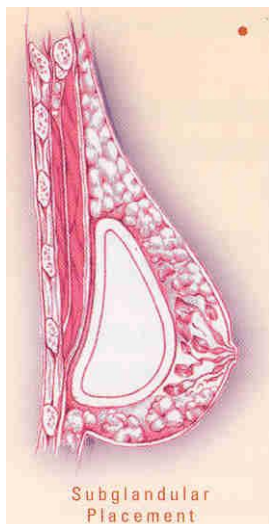
Your doctor will explain each incision choice to you in greater detail and help you make a decision about which one is right for you.

Placement

During a breast augmentation procedure, your implants will either be placed under the chest muscle (submuscular), or on top of the muscle and under the breast glands (subglandular).



Subfascia and Submuscular placement may reduce the chances of your implants being felt through your skin, and it may help reduce the chance of scar tissue hardening around your implants. It also will make it easier to image your breast during a mammogram.



Subglandular placement can make your augmentation surgery shorter and reduce your recovery time. A possible disadvantage could be having your implant edges more visibly noticeable under your skin. Imaging during a mammogram can also be more difficult when your implants are placed subglandularly.

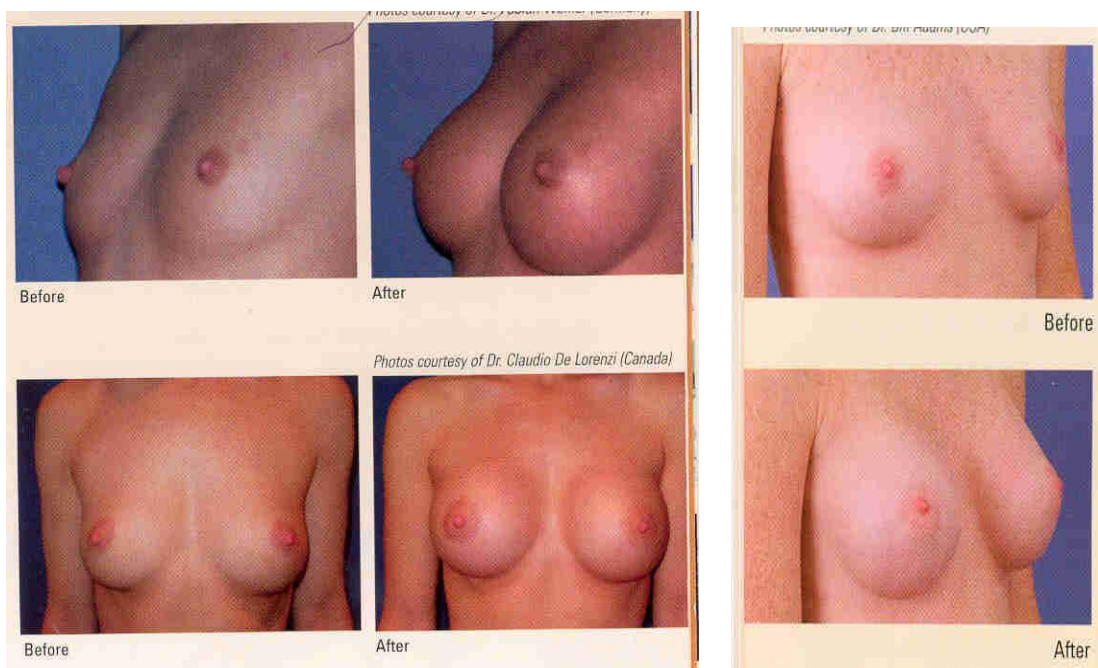
Your doctor can talk with you about how both placement options relate to your individual needs, so that you can make a decision about which option is right for you.

Types of Breast Implants

There are two basic types of breast implants: **Gel-filled breast implants** and **saline-filled breast implants**. Mentor has made both gel-filled implants and saline-filled breast implants for over 30 years. As an industry leader, the breast implants made by Mentor meet strict manufacturing standards and are of the highest quality.

Gel-filled material

Gel-filled breast implants are silicone shells filled with a cohesive gel substance that feels like a normal breast. Mentor offer gel-filled implants with three degrees of **cohesive filling material**: standard, moderate and high. The Contour Profile gel is filled with the most cohesive gel to maintain its natural shape.



Saline-filled breast implants

Saline-filled breast implants are empty silicone shells filled with salt water.

Implant Shapes

Depending on the breast shape you hope to achieve, you and your doctor may choose either a *round* or *contoured implant*. Contoured implants have a teardrop shape and can provide patients with a more natural looking breast. Mentor breast implants have varying degrees of projection: standard, moderate and high. The newest addition is high profile implants for women that desire greater projection and have a narrow chest wall.

Implant Surface

Breast implants come within either a smooth or a textured surface. Smooth-surfaced implants have a slightly softer shell and are less likely to be felt through the skin. The material on Mentor's textured-surface implants is called Siltex.

Talk to your surgeon about the many breast implant options from Mentor that are available to you. Based on your body type and expectations, he or she will be able to help you select an implant style that is just right for your breast augmentation.

Your Surgery

Breast augmentation procedures are usually performed in a hospital room or surgery centre. You normally can go home the same day as your surgery. Local and sedation anesthesia is typically used so you will be asleep during your procedure. The surgery usually lasts one to two hours. Your doctor will make an incision and form a pocket in which the breast implant is placed. When the implant is in its proper position, the incision will be closed with stitches. To achieve the best results and to make your recovery as quick as possible, your surgeon will discuss with you specific surgical techniques that are best suited for your individual needs and expectations.

Your Recovery

You will probably feel a little sore for several days following your breast augmentation surgery. The first 24 to 72 hours after your procedure is when you will experience the most discomfort. Your breast will be swollen and very tender. Although every woman's recovery is different, you should be able to resume light activities after about one week.

An important part of your recovery may involve wearing a postoperative bra or compression garment. These are designed to provide you with extra support while you heal. Your doctor also may have other specific suggestions for you to follow while you recover. If any problems occur after your breast implant surgery, contact your doctor immediately.

Complications and Side Effects

The following is a list of the most common complications and risks that have, can, and could occur following your breast implant surgery. The percentages given represent the findings for all implant types, all surgeons, and all incision types:

Most Common Complications/Complaints with Saline & Silicone Breast Implants

	<u>Saline (%)</u>	<u>Silicone (%)</u>
Excessive Rippling	50	10
Excessive Firming (hard implants)	3 – 5	10 – 15
Chronic, Long Term Deflation	100	0
Palpability	100	100
Noticeable Scars	50	50
Problems with shape, position, double fold, synmastia	10	10
Asymmetry	50	50
Numbness of breast or	10	10

nipple		
Bleeding (Hematoma)	1	1
Pneumothorax	0.1	0.1
Seroma	1	1
Infection	1	1
Capsular contracture requiring re-operation	3 – 5	10 - 15

Buckling, rippling, or wrinkling of the skin or the implant

Many surgeons believe that almost all implant patients will have some amount of rippling at some time. This could be attributed to an unanticipated post-surgical tissue implant reaction. It is impossible to predict which patients will have wrinkling or rippling of the skin and/or the implant, although this is much more common in women with thin skin, women who smoke, thin women, and women who have lost large amounts of weight. It is probable that all saline implants ripple, although we may not see or feel the rippling. This may be permanent and there may be no satisfactory treatment for this condition, if it does occur. Smoking causes loss of skin elasticity. If you smoke, or continue to smoke, the chances of rippling are much greater. Rippling is much less with silicone implants.

Symmetry and Asymmetry

It is understood that the two sides of our bodies are different and asymmetrical and this includes the chest, breast, nipples and all other parts of our faces and bodies. While we usually want to make our two sides more alike, it is understood that it is not possible to make them look alike. The two sides of our bodies and of every part of our breasts will always be different, unequal and asymmetrical in every way to some degree. Rarely does a woman have breasts that are entirely symmetrical and equal; therefore, your chances of being entirely symmetrical are remote, although, every attempt will be made to provide the desired symmetry.

Sagging of the breast after implants (breast ptosis)

While women with breast implants may sag no more than those of the same size breast without, the implants do have some weight and can cause some additional sagging of the breasts as can pregnancy, weight gain and aging. Certainly, implants do not prevent sagging and certainly, the larger the implant, the more sagging that can be expected since any large breasted women, whether or not she has implants will have a tendency for more sagging.

1. Medications

Unfavourable reaction to prescribed medications or to anaesthetic drugs can occur. This may include, but is not limited to, vomiting, allergic reactions with skin rash and itching to more severe reactions, including convulsions, coma, or death.

Oedema (Swelling)

This occurs to some degree after every surgery. It may last days or weeks. You will be given special instructions or treatment if appropriate.

Bleeding

This is controlled at the time of surgery by sutures, cautery, or pressure. A hematoma (blood clot) may require removal. Some bloody drainage on the dressing is normal. If bleeding occurs, phone our office. You may always call Dr. Le at home, and you will be given his number(s) after surgery. If we (or he) cannot be reached promptly, and there are problems that concern you, go to the nearest hospital emergency room. In very rare cases, there may be extensive bleeding or other complications which could require hospitalization and blood transfusion. With most surgery, there is bleeding under the skin that leaves a bluish discoloration (bruising) for two or more weeks. Excessive bleeding occurs in about 1% of patients during their implant surgery. If excessive bleeding occurs, the incision must be opened and blood or blood clots evacuated, the bleeding controlled, and the wound re-sutured. This may happen immediately after surgery or may occur after trauma, or may occur for unknown reasons days, weeks, or months after surgery. Rarely, the implant may need to be removed.

Anaesthesia

Intravenous sedation anaesthesia is routinely and safely performed on offices across Australia. The most common example of this is oral surgery, where IV sedation is almost uniformly used for the removal of wisdom teeth. Even so, there are risks with IV sedation.

Infection

This can be expected to occur in approximately 0.5% of all patients undergoing breast augmentation. This infection may be immediate or may be delayed for several weeks, months, or years. This may require implant removal or replacement with a new implant at a later time. Infection may occur with any break in the skin or with any operation, or following pregnancy. When infection occurs around a breast implant, the implant will almost always have to be removed. It may occur on only one side. When the implant is removed, it is necessary to leave it out for a period of months to be sure that the tissues are completely free of infection before the implant is replaced. Mouth to nipple contact is forbidden for three (3) months after implant placement. You must remove nipple rings at least one (1)

month before surgery. Nipple rings must never be used after breast augmentation due to the risk of infection.

Scarring

A scar results whenever and wherever there is a surgical cut. We make every effort to place scars in areas where they will be minimal or invisible. Healing capabilities and the tendency to scar are very variable in different people and different areas of the body in the same person. How well a person will heal cannot be exactly predicted or controlled. If you are prone to them, excessive wide or thickened scars (hypertrophic or keloid) may occur.

Numbness

In cutting the skin, small nerve endings are also cut that can result in numbness around or adjacent to the surgical area. Sensation usually returns a matter of months or years as the small nerve endings re-grow. Rarely is an area permanently numb. Most numbness goes away with time.

2. Implant Rupture

Although an implant with a strong outer covering is used, abnormal stress or trauma applied to the breast may result in its rupture. This has also happened without a history of trauma to the chest or breast. Also, the gel interior of the silicone gel implant has been reported to migrate to certain areas of the body, including the lymph nodes in the armpit, chest, liver or other unspecified organs. This may be due to a very slow leaking or "bleed" of the silicone from the silicone gel implant. Implants may rupture at any time follow surgery even without apparent cause. The most common cause of rupture is injury. A rupture gel implant may result in gel migration, inflammation and formation of silicone granulomas. Additional surgery may be required to remove the implant and the gel. The long-term effect of silicone gel on the body with a ruptured implant is unknown. Be aware that the shell of the saline implant is solid silicone. When a saline implant ruptures, it must be replaced, even though the saline is absorbed by the body, and is non-toxic. However, with saline implants it is not unusual to have a few reactive or enlarged lymph nodes in the armpit, which are totally begun.

Foreign Body Reaction

An implant is recognized by the body as foreign object; your body treats it as such, and may reject it. The capsule contracture problem, of becoming too hard may be part of the rejection phenomenon. The body forms scar tissue capsule around every implant, in an attempt to isolate it from the body. This might occur to such an extent that a person cannot tolerate breast implants of any kind due to pain, and must live without breast implants. When the body's foreign body reaction is excessive, "capsular contracture" occurs, and the breast can become either distorted, very hard, or both. If this happens, and is unacceptable to you,

a second operation will be required to reshape or loosen the capsule. This is usually done at least six months after the development of the capsular contracture. Capsular contracture can happen at any time after implant placement, anywhere from several months to many years after surgery.

Gel Bleed

All implants filled with silicone gel may leak or bleed through the shell even when the implant is not ruptured. The long-term effects of gel bleed are unknown. Over many years gel bleed could be harmful. This doesn't occur with saline implants.

Capsular Contracture

This is one of the most common problems with any type of breast implant. At times, this requires further surgery. Hardness and deformity in appearance often follow pregnancy. Contracture is also more common with silicone gel than saline implants. Some women will form capsular contracture with any and all implants, and will not be able to tolerate implants, requiring permanent removal.

Interference with Mammography

Breast implants may sometimes interfere with post-operative mammography. This is the reason that we insist on a pre-operative mammogram for all implant patients over 39 years of age. If a malignancy develops, a delay in detection could occur. (In fact, statistically, patients with implants, have no greater incidence of the occurrence or severity of breast cancer than all other women.) The pressure of mammography may rupture an implant or cause saline implant deflation.

Displacement and Distortion

A breast implant may become displaced following trauma, or for no explainable or logical reason. This usually happens with capsular contracture. The implants may seem too high or too low, too far to the side, or in any other conceivable abnormal position. It may even cross the midline, causing a "uni-breast," with the skin over the breastbone lifting forward, causing an apparent communication from one side to the other. There may be no cause for this, or this may be due to enlargement of the pocket too far toward the middle at the time of surgery. This may require further surgery. Not all problems can be corrected. Many problems in appearance cannot be corrected or improved.

Skin Necrosis or Death or Breakdown

This may result from too much tension over the overlying skin of the implant or trauma to this area of skin during or after the surgical procedure. Skin over a portion of the implant may become very thin and break. The implants may become exposed and require removal. It is then often best to wait 6 months before replacing the implant.

Seroma

Serum is the fluid component of blood, with red blood cells, and this may accumulate around the implant immediately after surgery, or weeks, months, or years after the surgery. This is usually associated with swelling, pain, and sometimes fever. The fluid may be secondary to trauma, sub clinical infection, overt infection, or no reason at all, within days, months, or years after the surgery. A seroma may require removal of the fluid, removal of the implant, or both. If the implant requires removal, it will not be replaced for at least 3 months.

Firm or Hard Breasts

At least 5-10% of women will experience firmness or hardness greater than the normal breast. This can vary from only slight firmness to a breast that is extremely hard. The cause of this remains unknown, and different patients respond in different ways. If this happens, a second surgery may be needed, or the implants may need to be removed on a permanent basis. Fibrous contracture or hard breast is also more common in women who smoke. Also this condition is more common in women with silicone implants.

Calcification

Calcium deposits have been reported and occur occasionally around breast implants and surrounding tissues. The causes of this are unknown.

Nipple Sensation

Some temporary breast numbness is expected after every breast augmentation. The numbness is most often in the lower portion of the skin below the nipple. Occasionally, there is numbness of the nipple after breast surgery. You may also experience more sensitive nipples (hypersensitivity). Most of the numbness goes away in a period of months or years. Some numbness may be permanent and unequal.

Wound Healing Interruption

Due to infection, poor vascularity, tight closure, or cortisone therapy. The wound may be disrupted and require a second surgical procedure. Infection and abscess formation are also possible, and may result in mandatory removal of the implants.

Microwave Diathermy

This is used in the offices of chiropractors and physical therapists. It has been reported in the literature that this can cause skin erosion and skin death, with subsequent exposure of the implant in some patients.

Pregnancy

There is no way to determine the effects that pregnancy (with or without implants) will have upon breasts. If you should become pregnant after implant placement, the risks of certain complications increase, including capsular contracture, hard breast, mastitis, infection of the breast tissue, or infection around or in the implant itself. Also, rippling is much more common after pregnancy.

3. Sensitization & Immune Response System Problems or Changes

Some doctors feel that an increased immune response occurs to breast implants, which would include or could include swelling in the joints, generalized swelling, acute or chronic rash, enlargement of the lymph nodes, or a general tired feeling. Some reports in the medical literature claim that this may be due to the silicone implant or silicone induced disease. Diseases of these natures which have been recorded include connective tissue diseases such as: rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, polyarteritis, scleroderma, and chronic fatigue syndrome. Statistically, according to most literature (but not all literature) there is no correlation between these diseases and breast implants. You must realize that a hyper-immune disease reaction; however are, may require that your implants be removed at later date. You should realize that if such a disease is contracted or begins while your implants are in place, removal of the implants may or may not correct the disease process. The above class of diseases can be fatal. According to the FDA, "***There is no conclusive evidence at present that women with breast implants have an increased risk of developing arthritis like diseases, or other autoimmune diseases. Women with breast implants who have developed such diseases may have done so regardless of their implants.***"

Pneumothorax

A life threatening condition where air from the lung is leaked into the chest cavity and/or into surrounding tissue.. This is a surgical complication which may happen when surgical instruments breached the lining of the lung during the creation of pocket for the implant .This may require treatment, medicines, and drainage, and could require additional incisions and treatment. Usually, a small tube is place between the ribs for several days. In some cases, this requires hospitalization.

Wrinkling & Rippling

Implants with thicker shells, implants with lower profiles and implants that are textured cause more wrinkling and rippling. Therefore, it is our usual practice to use an implant which is "high profile" and non-textured, to keep rippling to a minimum. If the skin and breast tissue is very thin, rippling can and often occurs. This rippling can occur with any implant. Any degree of rippling CANNOT be predicted and correction may be impossible. Silicone implants ripple less than saline implants.

Revisions

When we have cosmetic surgery, we want an improvement in appearance, and want to look as good as possible. Even after the surgery is done, most of us still want to look better. This may even be true when the surgery is very successful. Sometimes, because the appearance is improved with so little discomfort, the patient wants more. Many patients want to look better than is realistically possible, which is the definition of 'unrealistic expectations.' These expectations may be greater than Dr. Le, or any surgeon, can achieve. Results of surgery are never perfect. The results can never match a preconceived drawing, picture, image, or goal. If further surgery is desired to look better, even in the previously operated area, there will be additional charges. Though the patient may want improvement, the surgeon may believe that the risks outweigh the rewards to the patient. When this is true, Dr Le will refuse to perform further surgery. It is understood that additional fees will be charged for revision surgery or repair work done.

Incision site, Location, Shape, Implant size, Position and Type

Though these factors may be discussed and the patient's wishes may be followed as much as is prudent and reasonable, the patient must agree to whatever can be done for the patient with respect to all of these factors. The patient must also agree to whatever treatment or surgery is necessary, advisable or available at the time of, and during, the surgery. Permission is granted for other incisions, implants, or treatments as may be needed. No certain preconceived appearance or result can be obtained. Other incision sites may be needed later if there are complications.

Leaking Implants & Deflation

Saline filled implants are expected to leak and eventually collapse, in every patient. The saline is not harmful to the body. If the leakage and deflation rate are on only one side, this may cause a distorted appearance. It is estimated that noticeable loss of saline will occur in as many as 50% of women who have saline implants for

31. Rejection or Extrusion

The body may recognize the implants as a foreign object and try to reject it. The capsular contracture problem of becoming too hard may be part of the rejection phenomenon.

Breastfeeding

Many patients have become pregnant and have breast fed infants after breast implant surgery. Breast implants may interfere with breastfeeding in many different ways. There may be numbness or hypersensitivity of the nipples. There may be tenderness or inadequate milk production. Pregnancy after breast implant surgery may cause stretching of the skin and

deformity of the shape of the breast or stretch marks of the skin. There is an increase in capsular contracture following pregnancy and breast feeding.

Axillary Incision

There may be numbness or pain of the arms around the incision or of the upper part of the arms, forearms, or hands. These problems are uncommon, but could occur even when the surgery is perfectly performed. Another incision site may be necessary if there are problems with this surgery or surgery performed at a later date.

Breast Cancer & Implants

Breast implants may interfere with early detection of breast cancer. This could mean that women with breast implants have a reduced cure rate with breast cancer. Approximately three (3) million American women have breast implants. Women with breast implants have not been shown to have an increased risk of breast cancer, and, **according to the FDA, "There is no evidence at present that women with breast implants are at increased risk or breast cancer."** The results of studies in progress will not be known for many years to come.

Risks to Unborn Babies

Possibilities of risk to unborn babies cannot be ruled out. **According to the FDA, "There is no evidence at present that women with breast implants or their unborn babies are at increased risk".**

Deformities of Appearance

Many deformities and disfigurements of appearance can occur after breast implant surgery. Among these are a "stuck on" appearance, nipples pointing down, the "ball in the sock" appearance, the "double bubble" deformity, the "unibreast", unequal size, shape, and direction of pointing nipples, sagging, and too much or too little cleavage. Many other deformities are possible.

Stretch Marks or Striae

Stretch marks, such as of the skin of the abdomen following pregnancy, may also occur in breasts. They may not occur until after pregnancy, or many months or years later. Birth control pills seem to cause them in some patients. They may occur in women after implantation for no known reason. The veins in the skin of your breasts are almost always much more prominent for 4-6 months after surgery, and are usually blue in colour.

Muscle Movement

Implants that are placed below the pectoral muscles may move whenever the muscles are contracted in normal arm movements. This may also causes visible distortion of the

appearance of the breasts with movement of the arms. Occasionally, the movement is so annoying that women have further surgery, to put the implants above the muscles, because of this problem.

Muscles Weakness

Whenever the implants are placed below the muscles, there is some weakness of the muscle, because of the injury to the muscle itself, or to the nerve and blood supply to the muscle. The muscle is partially detached from the ribs, and is otherwise injured by the surgery. It is the policy of this office to place the implants in a subfascial plane, in an attempt to eliminate implant movement and muscle weakness.

Double Fold or Bubble

A fold in addition to the new inframammary fold may occur in the lower part of the breast. This is due to a persistence of the normal inframammary fold or crease. This can cause a double bubble appearance, which may or may not improve with time.

Implant Duration

Implants last many years in some women, and must be replaced frequently in others. The person choosing breast implants should expect to require further surgery to repair the implants at some time in the future, especially if they are filled with saline. About 50% of all women with breast implants will require further surgery within ten (10) years from the time of initial implantation, considering all implants, all surgeons, and all surgical techniques. Hopefully (and we do not know if this is true) this statistic will improve with better techniques and better implants.

Respiratory and Heart Failure

These are unusual complications of anaesthesia. They are, however, known risks. Heart attacks, strokes or death may occur during any anaesthesia.

Postoperative Depression

Common after any form of cosmetic surgery. Such depression is usually related to the immediate postoperative discomfort, drugs, anxiety over a distorted appearance (swelling and bruising) and limitation of activities and socializing, As your appearance improves, and you return to your usual activities and interests, these feelings should disappear.

Medical History

I have given a complete and truthful history of previous surgery and hospitalizations, and all previous physical and mental illnesses, in writing on a separate form, including all

medications and drugs that have been taken, or to which I am allergic, or with which I have had (or may still have) a problem of abuse.

Hospital Admission

The treatment of any unusual or serious complication requiring admission to a hospital is not covered by way of cost of or charges quoted in connection with this surgery. In addition, such complications could require the service of additional physicians, and none of these fees or charges are included.

Unknown Risks

Although there are many risks that are known that can be described, there are some risks that are still unknown.

Other Reported Complications after Breast Augmentation Include, but are not limited to

Excessive bruising, swelling, rejection of implants by the body, chronic pain in the breast, chest muscles, or arms of an undetermined amount of time, chronic painful discharge from the nipple, or cancer of the breast. Silicone can cause cancer in animals, as can polyurethane, which has been used to cover silicone implants. Although recent studies have not shown an increase in cancer in humans with breast implants, if you choose to have breast implants, you must accept the risk that any material used in breast augmentation (including silicone) may cause cancer during your lifetime.

Additional Costs

Many of the problems known and unknown that can occur and may be related to breast implants may cause the need of additional treatment or surgery. They may also cause prolonged illness, disability, hospitalization, disease, deformity, disfigurement, and death. Any and all of these may require additional expenses and costs to the woman having breast implant surgery, or to her family.

Abnormal Appearance or Feel

Implants are usually detectable. They may look or feel firmer than the normal human breast. They may not move or "jiggle" the same as normal. The implants may be palpable. The valve may be palpable and the implant can often be felt through the skin. They may look "stuck on", "too high", "too low", or unequal.