

Fairfield County Plastic Surgery

Question and Answer Information sheet about breast implants and the SAMBA procedure

This was written to answer some common questions which patients have when they are considering surgery. It is not intended to be comprehensive but it is written in an understandable fashion so that it will help you to understand some of the most likely complications and sequelae of surgery.

What is a SAMBA procedure?

SAMBA is an acronym for "Simultaneous Areolar Mastopexy, Breast Augmentation". This is a procedure used when a small breast is sagging. The breast is enlarged with an implant and the breast skin is tightened with removal of skin around the areola (the pigmented skin around the nipple). The skin is drawn together like a purse string around the new areola, which is usually reduced in size.

What are the risks of a SAMBA procedure?

The risks and sequelae can be split into those due to the implant and those due to the "purse-stringing" of the skin around the areola.

What are the risks of the Implant?

Firstly to understand the potential risks of the implant and the breast implant procedure we will give you the consent form produced by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. The FDA publishes a booklet on saline and Silicone gel implants

More Information

Institute of Medicine booklet for women on breast implants: Information for Women about the Safety of Silicone Breast Implants, published by the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM). This consumer booklet is derived from the large government-funded IOM study-- Safety of Silicone Breast Implants -- released last year. The study evaluates the evidence for associations of breast implants with human health conditions, provides a comprehensive list of references, and makes recommendations for further research. The enclosed consumer publication is a step toward meeting one of the IOM study recommendations -- that is, making the information contained in the original report available to women who have or who are considering breast implants. In this publication, the Institute of Medicine seeks to provide a short, easily understood version of that information to women.

You may wish to consider ordering a copy of this booklet if you are considering breast implants. To order contact the National Academy Press at 800-624-6242 or online at www.nap.edu. The price for booklets ordered online is \$4 per copy. The full 560-page IOM report -Safety of Silicone Breast Implants -- may be ordered online for \$39.20.

How often do patients who have breast implants require further surgery?

20-30% of patients require further surgery. Further surgery will entail additional costs of surgeon's fees, hospital and anesthesia fees, discomfort, time off work and the risk of complications.

What are the common risks of an implant?

The most common risks after the implants have been inserted are

1. Asymmetry or malposition of the implants.

One or both of the implants may be too low or too high in relation to the nipple. The cleavage may be too narrow or too wide or one implant may be closer to the midline than the other. The pocket the implant rests in may close up, (usually at the bottom) causing the implant to stay in a higher position. If the asymmetry or malposition is noticeable, further surgery is required to correct it.

Patient Initials _____

Fairfield County Plastic Surgery

Question and Answer Information sheet about breast implants and the SAMBA procedure

2. Rippling of the implant. Saline filled implants and to a lesser extent, silicone gel implants may have ripples or wrinkles. These can be felt at the bottom and sides of the breast and may be visible.

3. Deformity of the implants with arm motion

When the implant is under the muscle, they will be pushed down and outwards when pressing the hand into the side. This is not usually noticeable. The advantages of placing the implant under the muscle are a smoother more natural looking contour to the upper breast and a lower incidence of capsular contracture (see below).

4. Indentations of the breast when the arm is elevated.

If the lower part of the breast is adjusted to release tight crease under the breast, the tissue may appear thin and dimpled when lifting the breast.

5. Loss of feeling in the nipple.

10-20% have some loss of feeling which may be permanent

6. Grooving of the lower part of the breast due to a tight "infra-mammary crease".

Patients who have some drooping of the breast and a short distance between the crease under the breast and the nipple may have a groove caused by a tight crease under the breast when a larger implant is placed. The crease is usually lowered to accommodate a larger implant and give a natural appearance. The crease is released at the time of surgery. If the crease cannot be adequately released it may be necessary to reposition a smaller implant higher and recreate the original crease at a second surgery.

7. Loss of feeling in the skin of the breast, usually at the side or underneath, often permanent.

Small nerves, which supply feeling to the skin, may be cut or stretched when creating a new pocket for the implant. This can result in permanent loss of feeling to the skin

8. Capsular contracture.

Capsular contracture is a tightening of the normal tissue around the implant. This can cause a deformity of the breast requiring further surgery to release the contracture and improve the appearance of the breast.

9. Pain in the breasts and difficulty sleeping on your side or tummy. This can last for 6 months to one year.

What are the risks of the SAMBA procedure?

The risks of the SAMBA procedure are related to the purse-stringing" of skin around the new areola.

1. Wrinkling of the skin around the areola.

The skin is "gathered in" around the new areola to tighten the breast skin. As a result, there are wrinkles in the skin around the areola. These usually smooth out over several months but sometimes they may persist requiring a revision of the scar after 6 -12 months

Patient Initials _____

Fairfield County Plastic Surgery

Question and Answer Information sheet about breast implants and the SAMBA procedure

2. **Wide scar.**

Sometimes a wide scar can be improved with resuturing but not always if you have a tendency to form wide scars anyway.

3. **Enlarged areola.**

The areola may stretch and enlarge if the "purse-string" suture loosens. This may require a revision of the scar and placement of an new "purse-string suture"

4. **Asymmetrical areola or oval shaped areola.**

The areola may not have a round shape or may be a different size from the other areola, requiring a revision of the scar after 6 -12 months

5. **Dimpling or protrusion of the nipple and areola.**

This can be improved with resuturing but may not be completely eliminated

6. **Looseness of the skin of the lower half of the breast.**

If this happened it might necessary to excise more skin as a peri-areolar mastopexy or convert the "purse-string "closure to a t shaped scar to give a better contour to the breast.

7. **Dimpling or unevenness of the surrounding breast.**

This can be caused by tightening the breast skin and may be permanent. Usually it improves over several months.

I have read and understand the most common risks after the implants have been inserted and **the risks of the SAMBA procedure.**

Patient Signature _____ **date** _____

Witness _____ **date** _____

Patient Initials _____