



Breast Augmentation, Commonly Asked Questions

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Breast augmentation can be a difficult decision for many women. Saline versus silicone is often a big decision. How large of an implant do you need? Should the implant be placed under the muscle or on top of the muscle are other questions that are often asked.

Saline and Silicone implants are both safe. The outer shell of both implants is made of silicone. Saline implants are filled with salt water. Silicone implants are filled with silicone which is a compressible gel. At the time of this article, cohesive gel implants are still in trial in the United States. This new type of silicone gel is a different form of silicone and remains cohesive if the outer shell ruptures.

Breast implants can be placed through an incision under the breast (inframammary), under the arm (transaxillary), around the nipple (periareolar) or through the umbilicus (tuba). Saline implants are filled after the implant is inserted therefore the incision is smaller. Silicone implants are prefilled so a larger incision is needed to insert the implant.

Breast implants also come in various shapes such as round or anatomical (tear drop). Round implants are available in different widths such as standard, moderate profile or high profile. Your surgeon will evaluate you and help you decide which type will give you the look that you desire.

Breast implants can be placed under the muscle (subpectoral) or on top of the muscle (submammary). Your surgeon will discuss the pros and cons before a decision is made. It is easier to perform a mammogram if the implant is underneath the muscle.

When choosing the size of the implants, remember that you are the one that must be comfortable with the outcome. A D- cup will look different on someone that is 5 feet two inches tall than it will look on someone that is 5 feet nine inches tall. Many women are afraid that they may become too large but surveys have found that many women felt that they wish they had chosen to be larger. For more information visit Dr. Hardaway's web site at <http://www.michellehardawaymd.com>



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