



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

# Informed Consent

## Placement of Breast Implant Following Breast Reconstruction by Tissue Expansion

## **Informed Consent – Placement of Breast Implant Following Breast Reconstruction by Tissue Expansion**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an informed consent document that has been prepared to help inform you about placement of a breast implant following tissue expansion breast reconstruction, its risks, as well as alternative treatment(s).

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 and agreed upon by you.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The use of tissue expanders for breast reconstruction involves a two-stage process. A tissue expander is inserted either at the time of the mastectomy (immediate breast reconstruction) or at a later time (delayed reconstruction). The tissue expander is filled over time to increase the size of the breast mound. Once this is accomplished, a second operation is performed to place the breast implant. Additional procedures such as a capsulotomy or capsulectomy may be performed at the time of the insertion of the implant in order to make changes in the space where the breast implant will be located. It may also be possible to perform nipple and areola reconstruction during this procedure or at a later surgery. Breast implants are manufactured in a variety of shapes, sizes, materials, and with either smooth or textured surfaces. The method of implant selection and size, along with the surgical approach for inserting and positioning breast implants will depend on your preferences, your anatomy, and your surgeon's recommendation.

The shape and size of the breasts prior to surgery will influence both the recommended treatment and the final results. Breast reconstruction with tissue expanders cannot produce an exact replica of the removed breast. Breast symmetry surgery to produce similar size, shape, or position of the other breast may be considered at the same time or as a subsequent procedure.

Since May 2000, saline-filled breast implant and tissue expander devices have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in breast augmentation and reconstruction. The FDA approved silicone gel implants for use in breast augmentation and reconstruction in November 2006.

Breast implant surgery is contraindicated in women with untreated breast cancer or pre-malignant breast disorders, active infection anywhere in the body, or individuals who are currently pregnant or nursing. Individuals with a weakened immune system (currently receiving chemotherapy or drugs to suppress the immune system), conditions that interfere with blood clotting or wound healing, or that have reduced blood supply to the breast tissue (from prior surgery or radiation therapy treatments) may be at greater risk for complications and poor surgical outcome.

Patients undergoing breast reconstruction surgery with implants must consider the following:

- Breast augmentation or reconstruction with implants is likely to not be a one-time surgery.
- Breast implants of any type are not considered lifetime devices. They cannot be expected to last forever. You will likely require future surgery for implant replacement or removal.
- Changes that occur to the breasts following augmentation or reconstruction with implants are not reversible. There may be an unacceptable appearance to the breast if you later choose to have breast implants removed.

### **ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS**

Placement of a breast implant following tissue expansion is an elective surgical operation. Alternative treatment would consist of not undergoing the placement of an implant, the use of external breast prostheses or padding, or the transfer of other body tissues to complete the breast reconstruction process. Risks and potential complications are also associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

**INHERENT RISKS OF PLACEMENT OF BREAST IMPLANT FOLLOWING TISSUE  
EXPANSION SURGERY**

Every surgical procedure involves a certain amount of risk and it is important that you understand the risks involved with the placement of a breast implant following tissue expansion breast reconstruction surgery. Additional information concerning breast implants may be obtained from the FDA, package-insert sheets supplied by the implant manufacturer, or other information pamphlets required by individual state laws.

An individual's choice to undergo a surgical procedure is based on the comparison of the risk to potential benefit. Although the majority of women do not experience the following complications, you should discuss each of them with your plastic surgeon to make sure you understand the risks, potential complications, and consequences of placement of a breast implant following tissue expansion breast reconstruction. Problems associated with breast implants can be inherent to the type of implanted medical device or relate to complications of the surgical procedure. Additional advisory information regarding this subject should be reviewed by patients considering surgery that involves breast implants.

While every patient experiences her own individual risks and benefits following breast implant surgery, clinical data suggest that most women will be satisfied with the outcome of breast implant surgery despite the occurrence of problems inherent with the surgery.

**SPECIFIC RISKS OF BREAST IMPLANT SURGERY**

**Saline-filled Breast Implants:**

Breast implants, similar to other medical devices, can fail. When a saline-filled implant ruptures, the saline material is absorbed by the body, but the shell material remains. Rupture can occur as a result of an injury, from no apparent cause (silent rupture), or during a mammography or other activity. It is possible to damage an implant at the time of surgery. Damaged or broken implants cannot be repaired. Ruptured or damaged implants require replacement or removal. Breast implants can wear out, they are not guaranteed to last a lifetime, and future surgery may be required to replace one or both implants. Saline-filled breast implants may not have the same contour or feel as silicone-filled breast implants. The shape of your breasts after surgery depends on many factors such as your skin thickness, pre-operative breast characteristics, position, placement of the implants, and technique. You should discuss with your surgeon the possibility of a different and less than desirable contour-shape as well as feel of your results.

**Silicone Gel-filled Breast Implants:**

Breast implants, similar to other medical devices, can fail. When a silicone gel-filled implant ruptures, the gel material is usually contained within the scar tissue surrounding the implant (intracapsular rupture). In some cases, the gel may escape beyond the capsule layer and go into the breast tissue itself (extracapsular rupture and gel migration), or to more distant locations. Silicone gel may be difficult or impossible to completely remove. Rupture of a breast implant may or may not produce local firmness in the breast. Patients are advised to refer to individual manufacturer's informational materials regarding the incidence of device rupture reported during pre-market studies.

It is impossible to predict the biologic response that a patient's tissues will exhibit to the placement of breast implants or how you will heal following surgery.

Rupture can occur as a result of an injury, from no apparent cause or during a mammography or other activity. Rupture of a silicone breast implant is most often undetected (silent rupture). It is possible to damage an implant at the time of surgery. Damaged or broken implants cannot be repaired. According to the FDA, ruptured or damaged implants require replacement or removal. Breast implants can wear out, they are not guaranteed to last a lifetime, and future surgery may be required to replace one or both implants.

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A MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) study is advised to evaluate the possibility of implant rupture, yet it is not 100% accurate in diagnosing implant integrity. The FDA recommends regular screening MRI examinations starting at 3 years after surgery and then every 2 years thereafter.

### **Silicone Gel Bleed:**

The evidence is mixed regarding whether there are any clinical consequences associated with a silicone gel bleed. Over time, extremely small amounts of silicone gel material and platinum can pass through the shell layer of the implant and coat the outside of the implant. Studies indicate that small amounts of platinum in its most biologically compatible (zero oxidation) state are contained within the silicone gel. Microgram amounts of platinum in this state have been found to diffuse outside of breast implants. This may contribute to capsular contracture and lymph node swelling. The overall body of available evidence supports that the extremely low levels of gel bleed are of no clinical consequence. Enlargement of organs such as lymph nodes can occur.

### **Capsular Contracture:**

Scar tissue, which forms internally around the breast implant, can tighten and make the breast round, firm, and possibly painful. Excessive firmness of the breasts can occur soon after surgery or years later. The occurrence of symptomatic capsular contracture is not predictable. The incidence of symptomatic capsular contracture can be expected to increase over time. Capsular contracture may occur on one side, both sides, or not at all. It is more common with implant placement in front of the chest muscle layer. If radiation therapy to treat the breast cancer is administered before or after implant placement, risk of capsular contracture is increased. It may already be present while the tissue expander is in place. Treatment for capsular contracture may require surgery, implant replacement, or implant removal. Capsular contracture may reoccur after surgical procedures to treat this condition; it occurs more often in revision augmentation than primary augmentation. Capsular contracture may require considering another means of reconstruction if it cannot be resolved with an implant remaining.

### **Implant Extrusion/Tissue Necrosis:**

Lack of adequate tissue coverage or infection may result in exposure and extrusion of the implant through the skin. Increased risk for tissue breakdown (necrosis) has been reported with the use of steroid drugs, after chemotherapy/radiation to breast tissue, due to smoking, microwave diathermy, and excessive heat or cold therapy. In some cases, incision sites fail to heal normally. Atrophy of breast tissue may occur. An implant may become visible at the surface of the breast as a result of the device pushing through layers of skin. If tissue break down occurs and the implant becomes exposed, implant removal may be necessary. Permanent scar deformity may occur.

### **Skin Wrinkling and Rippling:**

Visible and palpable wrinkling of implants and breast skin can occur. Some wrinkling is normal and expected with breast implants. This may be more pronounced in patients who have implants with textured surfaces or thin breast tissue. It may be possible to feel the implant fill valve. Some patients may find a palpable valve and wrinkles cosmetically undesirable. Palpable valve, wrinkling, and/or folds may be confused with palpable tumors, and questionable cases should be investigated.

### **Calcification:**

Calcium deposits can form in the scar tissue surrounding the implant and may cause pain, firmness, and could be visible on a mammography. These deposits must be identified differently from calcium deposits that are a sign of breast cancer. Should this occur, additional surgery might be necessary to remove and examine calcifications.

### **Chest Wall Irregularities:**

Chest wall irregularities have been reported secondary to the use of tissue expanders and breast implants.

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### **Implant Displacement and Tissue Stretching:**

Displacement, rotation, or migration of a breast implant from its initial placement may occur and can be accompanied by discomfort and/or distortion in breast shape (visible rippling of the skin). Certain techniques of implant placement may increase the risk of displacement or migration. Additional surgery may be necessary to attempt to correct this problem. It may not be possible to resolve this problem once it has occurred.

### **Surface Contamination of Implants:**

Skin oil, lint from surgical drapes, or talc may become deposited on the surface of the implant at the time of insertion. The consequences of this are unknown.

### **Unusual Activities and Occupations:**

Activities and occupations that have the potential for trauma to the breast could potentially break or damage breast implants, cause bleeding, seroma, or other complications.

### **Change in Nipple and Skin Sensation:**

If your nipples were not removed at the time of your breast surgery, it is not likely that they will have any sensation after the breast reconstruction is completed. Other areas of breast skin may also have numbness or decreased sensation.

### **Use of Acellular Dermal Matrix:**

In order to place the implant in the right position and maintain that position, your plastic surgeon may choose to use biological materials. Most commonly, these materials are derived from human or pig cadaver skin or cow tissue. These materials are generally processed and do not carry any viable cells. You should ask your surgeon about these materials. They assist in contouring the pocket around the implant, provide additional cover to an implant, and become populated with your cells, thus becoming similar to your own tissue. These acellular products may produce fluid and require drains for a prolonged period of time.

### **Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL):**

Breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) is a very rare type of lymphoma that can develop in the scar capsule near saline or silicone breast implants. The relationship between this very rare disease and breast implants is currently being investigated. The family of ALCL is an extremely rare cancer of the immune system that can occur anywhere in the body. Based upon adverse event reports, the FDA estimates the total number of US cases of BIA-ALCL to be up to 250. A predominance of BIA-ALCL patients has been noted to have a history of a textured-surface device. An exact single-number estimate of the risk for both textured and non-textured implants is not possible with the currently available data. Lifetime risk of BIA-ALCL has been estimated to be between 1:1,000 to 1: 30,000 women with textured breast implants, and BIA-ALCL risk is currently under investigation. BIA-ALCL usually involves a swelling of the breast, on average 3 to 14 years after the operation to insert the breast implant. Most cases were cured by removal of the implant and capsule surrounding the implant; however, rare cases have required chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy for treatment.

Patients with breast implants should be followed by a surgeon over time and seek professional care for implant-related symptoms such as pain, lumps, swelling, or asymmetry. Patients should monitor their breast implants with routine breast self-exams and follow standard medical recommendations for imaging (e.g. Mammography, Ultrasound, MRI). Abnormal screening results or implant-related symptoms may result in additional costs and expenses for tests and/or procedures to properly diagnose and treat your condition. Tests and procedures could include, but may not be limited to: obtaining breast fluid or tissue for pathology and laboratory evaluation, surgery to remove the scar capsule around the breast implant, implant removal, or implant replacement.

### **Breast Disease:**

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Current medical information does not demonstrate an increased risk of breast cancer in women who have breast implant surgery for either cosmetic or reconstructive purposes. Individuals with a personal history or family history of breast cancer may be at a higher risk of developing breast cancer than an individual with no family history of this disease. It is recommended that all women perform periodic self-examination of their breasts, have a mammography according to American Cancer Society guidelines, and seek professional care should a breast lump be detected. In the event that suspicious tissue is identified prior to or during breast surgery, additional tests and therapy with corresponding expenses may be warranted. Implants may impact imaging for cancer surveillance/detection/treatment.

### **Use of Drains:**

During your surgery, your doctor may find it necessary to place a drain(s). A drain is a small tube that drains fluid out from the area that was operated on. You will be instructed on the use of your drain. Placement of the drain may require a small separate incision. The drain will be removed when your doctor feels it is no longer necessary. The drain site may be closed at the time of drain removal. Closing the drain site may require special surgical tape or sometimes a suture. Your doctor may leave the site open to drain any residual fluid under the wound.

### **GENERAL RISKS OF SURGERY**

#### **Healing Issues:**

Certain medical conditions, dietary supplements, and medications may delay and interfere with healing. Patients with massive weight loss may have a healing delay that could result in the incisions coming apart, infection, and tissue changes resulting in the need for additional medical care, surgery, and prolonged hospitalizations. Patients with diabetes or those taking medications such as steroids on an extended basis may have prolonged healing issues. Smoking will cause a delay in the healing process, often resulting in the need for additional surgery. There are general risks associated with healing such as swelling, bleeding, possibility of additional surgery, prolonged recovery, color changes, shape changes, infection, not meeting patient goals and expectations, and added expense to the patient. There may also be a longer recovery due to the length of surgery and anesthesia. Patients with significant skin laxity (patients seeking facelifts, breast lifts, abdominoplasty, and body lifts) will continue to have the same lax skin after surgery. The quality or elasticity of the skin will not change and recurrence of skin looseness will occur at some time in the future, quicker for some than others. There are nerve endings that may become involved with healing scars from surgery such as suction-assisted lipectomy, abdominoplasty, facelifts, body lifts, and extremity surgery. While there may not be a major nerve injury, the small nerve endings may become too active during the healing period, thus producing a painful or oversensitive area due to the small sensory nerve involved with scar tissue. Often, massage and early non-surgical intervention resolves this. It is important to discuss post-surgical pain with your surgeon.

#### **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 the accumulated blood or you may require a blood transfusion, though such occurrences are rare. The collection of blood that can occur under your skin following surgery is referred to as a hematoma. Increased activity too soon after surgery can lead to an increased chance of bleeding and additional surgery. It is important to follow post-operative instructions and to limit exercise and strenuous activity for the instructed time. Non-prescription "herbs" and dietary supplements can increase the risk of surgical bleeding. Hematomas can occur at any time, usually in the first three weeks following injury to the operative area. If blood transfusions are necessary to treat blood loss, there is the risk of blood-related infections such as hepatitis and HIV (AIDS). Your surgeon may provide medications after your surgery to prevent blood clots. Medications that are used to prevent blood clots in veins can produce bleeding and decreased blood platelets.

#### **Infection:**

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Infection, although uncommon, can occur after surgery. Should an infection occur, additional treatment including antibiotics, hospitalization, or additional surgery may be necessary. It is important to tell your surgeon of any other infections, such as a history of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections, an open wound, recent upper respiratory infection/pneumonia, ingrown toenail, insect bite, tooth abscess, or urinary tract infection. Infections in other parts of the body, may lead to an infection in the operated area. Post-operative infections often result in more extensive scarring and predispose to revision surgery.

**Ileus:**

The return of bowel function following surgery is important. An ileus is a disruption in bowel function caused by failure of peristalsis or hypomobility of your bowels/gut, resulting in lack of defecation and possibly repeated vomiting. Anesthetics and medications, such as pain medications, given to you at the time of surgery can contribute to the development of an ileus in the post-operative period. An ileus can result in abdominal distention, vomiting, inability to absorb oral medications, and possibly hospitalization. Repeated vomiting could result in an aspiration pneumonia and respiratory failure. It can be essential to have regular bowel function after your surgery.

**Scarring:**

All surgeries leave scars, some more visible than others. Although good wound healing after a surgical procedure is expected, this surgery will result in long, prominent scars that are permanent. Abnormal scars may occur within the skin and deeper tissues. Scars may be unattractive and of a different color than the surrounding skin tone. Scar appearance may also vary within the same scar. Scars may be asymmetrical (appear different on the right and left side of the body). There is the possibility of visible marks in the skin from sutures. These scars may become raised, red, or discolored in the first few weeks/months, but usually settle down over time. However, some patients are prone to “hypertrophic” or “keloid” scars i.e. prominent, raised, red scars that do not settle. Further treatments with medications and/or surgery may be required.

**Firmness:**

Excessive firmness can occur after surgery due to internal scarring. The occurrence of this is not predictable. Additional treatment including surgery may be necessary.

**Skin Sensitivity:**

Itching, tenderness, or exaggerated responses to hot or cold temperatures may occur after surgery. Usually this resolves during healing, but in rare situations, it may be chronic.

**Major Wound Separation:**

Wounds may separate after surgery. Should this occur, additional treatment, including surgery, may be necessary.

**Sutures:**

Most surgical techniques use deep sutures. You may notice these sutures after your surgery. Sutures may spontaneously poke through the skin, become visible, or produce irritation that requires suture removal.

**Damage to Deeper Structures:**

There is the potential for injury to deeper structures including nerves, blood vessels, lymphatics, muscles, and lungs (pneumothorax) during any surgical procedure. The potential for this to occur varies according to the type of procedure being performed. Injuries to deeper structures may be temporary or permanent.

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### **Fat Necrosis:**

Fatty tissue found deep in the skin might die. This may produce areas of firmness within the skin. Additional surgery to remove areas of fat necrosis may be necessary. There is the possibility of contour irregularities in the skin that may result from fat necrosis.

### **Surgical Anesthesia:**

Both local and general anesthesia involves risks. There is the possibility of complications, injury, and even death from all forms of surgical anesthesia or sedation.

### **Shock:**

In rare circumstances, your surgical procedure can cause severe trauma, particularly when multiple or extensive procedures are performed. Although serious complications are infrequent, infections or excessive fluid loss can lead to severe illness and even death. If surgical shock occurs, hospitalization and additional treatment would be necessary.

### **Pain:**

You will experience pain after your surgery. Pain of varying intensity and duration may occur and persist after surgery. If you are a chronic pain patient followed by a Pain Therapy Practitioner, you may be asked to see this practitioner pre-operatively to assist you in the management of your pain disorder in the post-operative period. Chronic pain may occur very infrequently from nerves becoming trapped in scar tissue or due to tissue stretching.

There are nerve endings that may become involved with healing scars from surgery. While there may not be a major nerve injury, the small nerve endings may become too active during the healing period, thus producing a painful or oversensitive area due to the small sensory nerve involved with scar tissue. Often, massage and early non-surgical intervention resolves this. It is important to discuss post-surgical pain with your surgeon.

### **Cardiac and Pulmonary Complications:**

Pulmonary complications may occur subsequent to blood clots (pulmonary emboli), fat deposits (fat emboli), pneumonia, or partial collapse of the lungs after general anesthesia. Pulmonary emboli can be life threatening or fatal in some circumstances. Inactivity and other conditions may increase the incidence of blood clots traveling to the lungs, causing a major blood clot that may result in death. It is important to discuss with your physician any past history of swelling in your legs or blood clots that may contribute to this condition. Cardiac complications are a risk with any surgery and anesthesia, even in patients without symptoms. If you experience shortness of breath, chest pains, or unusual heartbeats, seek medical attention immediately. Should any of these complications occur, you might require hospitalization and additional treatment.

### **Venous Thrombosis (Clot) and Sequelae:**

Thrombosed veins, which resemble cords, occasionally develop in the area of the breast or around IV sites, and usually resolve without medical or surgical treatment. It is important to discuss with your surgeon any birth control pills you are taking. Certain high estrogen pills may increase your risk of thrombosed veins; personal history of bleeding and clotting problems may also increase your risk of thrombosed veins.

### **Allergic Reactions:**

In rare cases, local allergies to tape, suture material and glues, blood products, topical preparations, or injected agents have been reported. Serious systemic reactions, including shock (anaphylaxis), may occur in response to drugs used during surgery and prescription medicines. Allergic reactions may require additional treatment. It is important to notify your physician of any previous allergic reactions.



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**Drug Reactions:**

Unexpected drug allergies, lack of proper response to medication, or illness caused by the prescribed drug are possibilities. It is important for you to inform your physician of any problems you have had with any medication or allergies to medication, prescribed or over-the-counter, as well as medications you regularly take. Provide your surgeon with a list of medications and supplements you are currently taking.

**Surgical Wetting Solutions:**

There is the possibility that large volumes of fluid containing dilute local anesthetic drugs and epinephrine that is injected into fatty deposits during surgery may contribute to fluid overload or systemic reaction to these medications. Additional treatment, including hospitalization, may be necessary.

**Fat/Air Embolism:**

In rare cases, fat particles or air can enter the vascular system and travel to the heart, lungs, or brain. This can result in significant complications including death.

**Persistent Swelling (Lymphedema):**

Persistent swelling can occur following surgery.

**Unsatisfactory Result:**

Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. The body is not symmetric and almost everyone has some degree of unevenness that may not be recognized in advance. One side of the face may be slightly larger or one side of the face droopier. The breast and trunk area exhibit the same possibilities. Many of such issues cannot be fully corrected with surgery. The more realistic your expectations are to the results, the better your results will appear to you. Some patients never achieve their desired goals or results, at no fault of the surgeon or surgery. You may be disappointed with the results of surgery. Asymmetry, unanticipated shape and size, loss of function, wound disruption, poor healing, and loss of sensation may occur after surgery. Size may be incorrect. Unsatisfactory surgical scar location or appearance may occur. It may be necessary to perform additional surgery to improve your results. Unsatisfactory results may NOT improve with each additional treatment.

**ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES**

**Medications and Herbal Dietary Supplements:**

There are potential adverse reactions that occur as the result of taking over-the-counter, herbal, and/or prescription medications. Aspirin and medications that contain aspirin interfere with the forming of blood clots, and therefore may contribute to more bleeding issues. If you have a medical condition (such as heart arrhythmia, heart stent, blood vessels with blockages, or blood clots) and are taking medications to thin your blood and prevent clotting such as Plavix®, Coumadin®, Xarelto®, Effient®, or Pradaxa®, discuss management of these medications around the time of surgery with your plastic surgeon. Your plastic surgeon may sometimes coordinate a plan for these medications with the doctor that prescribed them for your medical condition. If you have been prescribed drugs for a medical condition, do not stop them without discussing it first with your plastic surgeon. Stopping these medications abruptly may result in a heart attack, stroke, or death. Be sure to check with your physician about any drug interactions that may exist with medications that you are already taking. If you have an adverse reaction, stop the drugs immediately and call your plastic surgeon for further instructions. If the reaction is severe, go immediately to the nearest emergency room.

When taking the prescribed pain medications after surgery, realize that they can affect your thought process and coordination. Do not drive, do not operate complex equipment, do not make any important decisions, and do not drink any alcohol while taking these medications. Be sure to take your prescribed medication only as directed.

**Sun Exposure – Direct or Tanning Salon:**

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The effects of the sun are damaging to the skin. Exposing the incision areas to the sun may result in increased scarring, color changes, and poor healing. Patients who tan, either outdoors or in a salon, should inform their surgeon and either delay treatment or avoid tanning until the surgeon says it is safe to resume. The damaging effect of sun exposure occurs even with the use of sun block or clothing coverage.

### **Travel Plans:**

Any surgery holds the risk of complications that may delay healing and your return to normal life. Please let the surgeon know of any travel plans, important commitments already scheduled or planned, or time demands that are important to you, so that appropriate timing of surgery can occur. There are no guarantees that you will be able to resume all activities in the desired timeframe. Allow at least 10-14 days to travel via airplane. Medications may be required should you have a long flight/trip to prevent DVT/PE in the immediate post-operative period.

### **Long-term Results:**

Subsequent alterations in the appearance of your body may occur as the result of aging, sun exposure, weight loss, weight gain, pregnancy, menopause, or other circumstances not related to your surgery.

### **Interference with Sentinel Lymph Node Mapping Procedures:**

Breast surgery procedures that involve cutting through breast tissue, similar to a breast biopsy, can potentially interfere with diagnostic procedures to determine lymph node drainage of breast tissue to stage breast cancer.

### **Body-Piercing:**

Individuals who currently wear body-piercing jewelry in the surgical region are advised that an infection could develop from this activity. Body-piercing jewelry should be removed prior to your surgical procedure.

### **Nails:**

To determine your vitals status during surgery, your anesthesia provider may require access to your fingernails for monitoring. Make sure to have at least two fingernails free of nail polish or acrylic nails on the date of your surgery.

### **Jewelry:**

Jewelry should not be brought with you at the time of your surgical procedure. Items, such as earrings, wedding rings, necklaces, should be removed and placed in a safe place.

### **Future Pregnancy and Breastfeeding:**

This surgery is not known to interfere with pregnancy. If you are planning a pregnancy, your breast skin may stretch and offset the results of surgery. You may have more difficulty breastfeeding after this operation.

### **Female Patient Information:**

It is important to inform your plastic surgeon if you use birth control pills, estrogen replacement, or if you suspect you may be pregnant. Many medications, including antibiotics, may neutralize the preventive effect of birth control pills, allowing for conception and pregnancy.

### **Intimate Relations after Surgery:**

Surgery involves coagulating of blood vessels, and increased activity of any kind may open these vessels leading to a bleed or hematoma. Activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause additional bruising, swelling, and the need for return to surgery to control bleeding. It is wise to refrain from intimate physical activities until your physician states it is safe.

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**Mental Health Disorders and Elective Surgery:**

It is important that all patients seeking to undergo elective surgery have realistic expectations that focus on improvement rather than perfection. Complications or less than satisfactory results are sometimes unavoidable, may require additional surgery, and are often stressful. Please openly discuss with your surgeon, prior to surgery, any history that you may have of significant emotional depression or mental health disorders. Although many individuals may benefit psychologically from the results of elective surgery, effects on mental health cannot be accurately predicted.

**ADDITIONAL SURGERY NECESSARY (Re-Operations)**

There are many variable conditions that may influence the long-term result of surgery. It is unknown how your tissue may respond or how wound healing will occur after surgery. Secondary surgery may be necessary to perform additional tightening or repositioning of body structures. Should complications occur, additional surgery or other treatments may be necessary. Even though risks and complications occur infrequently, the risks cited are associated with this surgery. Other complications and risks can occur but are less common. The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. In some situations, it may not be possible to achieve optimal results with a single surgical procedure. You and your surgeon will discuss the options available should additional surgery be advised. There may be additional costs and expenses for such additional procedures, including surgical fees, facility and anesthesia fees, pathology, and lab testing.

**PATIENT COMPLIANCE**

Follow all physician instructions carefully; this is essential for a successful outcome. It is important that the surgical incisions are not subjected to excessive force, swelling, abrasion, or motion during the time of healing. Personal and vocational activities need to be restricted. Protective dressings and drains should not be removed unless instructed by your plastic surgeon. Successful post-operative function depends on both surgery and subsequent care. Physical activity that increases your pulse or heart rate may cause bruising, swelling, fluid accumulation, and the need to return to surgery. It is important that you participate in follow-up care, return for aftercare, and promote your recovery after surgery.

**ATTESTATIONS**

**Smoking, Second-hand Smoke Exposure, Nicotine Products (Patch, Gum, Nasal Spray):**

Patients who are currently smoking or use tobacco or nicotine products (patch, gum, or nasal spray) are at a greater risk for significant surgical complications of skin loss, delayed healing, and additional scarring. Individuals exposed to second-hand smoke are also at potential risk for similar complications attributable to nicotine exposure. Additionally, smoking may have a significant negative effect on anesthesia and recovery from anesthesia, with coughing and possibly increased bleeding. Individuals who are not exposed to tobacco smoke or nicotine-containing products have a significantly lower risk of these types of complications. Please indicate your current status regarding these items below:

\_\_\_ I am a non-smoker and do not use nicotine products. I understand the potential risk of second-hand smoke exposure causing surgical complications.

\_\_\_ I am a smoker or use tobacco/nicotine products. I understand the risk of surgical complications due to smoking or use of nicotine products.

\_\_\_ I have smoked and stopped approximately \_\_\_\_\_ ago. I understand I may still have the effects and, therefore, risks from smoking in my system, if not enough time has lapsed.

\_\_\_ I have been advised to stop smoking immediately and have been informed of the risks, benefits, expectations, and alternatives to my surgery if I continue smoking.

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It is important to refrain from smoking at least 6 weeks before surgery and until your physician states it is safe to return, if desired. I acknowledge that I will inform my physician if I continue to smoke within this timeframe, and understand that for my safety, the surgery, if possible, may be delayed.

Smoking may have such a negative effect on your surgery that a urine or blood test may be done just before surgery, which will prove the presence of nicotine. If positive, your surgery may be cancelled and your surgery, scheduling fee, and other prepaid amounts may be forfeited. Honestly disclose smoking to your surgeon.

**Sleep Apnea/CPAP:**

Individuals who have breathing disorders such as “Obstructive Sleep Apnea,” who may rely upon CPAP devices (continuous positive airway pressure) or utilize nighttime oxygen, are advised that they are at a substantive risk for respiratory arrest and death when they take narcotic pain medications following surgery. This is an important consideration when evaluating the safety of surgical procedures in terms of very serious complications, including death, that relate to pre-existing medical conditions. Surgery may be considered only with monitoring afterwards in a hospital setting in order to reduce risk of potential respiratory complications and to safely manage pain following surgery.

Please consider the following symptoms of sleep apnea:

- I am frequently tired upon waking and throughout the day
- I have trouble staying asleep at night
- I have been told that I snore or stop breathing during sleep
- I wake up throughout the night or constantly turn from side to side
- I have been told that my legs or arms jerk while I am sleeping
- I make abrupt snorting noises during sleep
- I feel tired or fall asleep during the day

It is important for you to inform and discuss any of the above symptoms that you have experienced with your surgeon.

**DVT/PE Risks and Advisory:**

There is a risk of blood clots, Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), and Pulmonary Embolus (PE) with every surgical procedure. It varies with the risk factors below. The higher the risk factors, the greater the risk and the more involved you must be in the understanding of these risks and, when permitted by your physician, walking and moving your legs. There may also be leg stockings, squeezing active leg devices, and possibly medicines to help lower your risk.

There are many conditions that may increase or affect risks of clotting. Inform your doctor about any past or present history of any of the following:

- Past History of Blood Clots
- Family History of Blood Clots
- Birth Control Pills
- Hormone Stimulating Drugs
- Swollen Legs
- History of Cancer
- Large Dose Vitamins
- Varicose Veins
- Past Illnesses of the Heart, Liver, Lung, or Gastrointestinal Tract
- History of Multiple Spontaneous Abortions or Miscarriages

**Informed Consent – Placement of Breast Implant Following  
Breast Reconstruction by Tissue Expansion**

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\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the risks relating to DVT/PE and how important it is to comply with therapy as discussed with my surgeon. The methods of preventative therapy include:

- \_\_\_ Early ambulation when allowed
- \_\_\_ Compression devices (SCD/ICD)
- \_\_\_ Anticoagulation protocols when allowed

For high-risk patients, the risks of VTE are still high, even in the setting of appropriate chemoprophylaxis. If your surgery is elective and you are a high-risk patient, it is best to consider with not proceeding with such elective surgery.

**COMMUNICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – CONSENT**

There are many ways to communicate with you. It is important to keep appointments and let us know if problems or issues arise. Methods of communicating are by telephone, text, pager, answering service (if available), email, and regular mail. If an emergency arises, keep us alerted of your progress so we may aid in any necessary treatments. Please do not leave a message after hours or on weekends on the office answering machine if any urgent or emergent situation exists, as there is a delay in retrieving such messages. All attempts will be made to preserve your privacy in accordance with HIPAA rules.

Please confirm below all acceptable ways of communicating with you:

- \_\_\_ Telephone
- |            |   |   |   |
|------------|---|---|---|
| ___ Home ( | - | - | ) |
| ___ Work ( | - | - | ) |
| ___ Cell ( | - | - | ) |
- \_\_\_ Text
- \_\_\_ Pager – answering service if available
- \_\_\_ Email – with up to date email address ( \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ )
- \_\_\_ Regular Mail and Delivery

**DISCLAIMER**

Informed consent documents are used to communicate information about the proposed surgical treatment of a disease or condition along with disclosure of risks and alternative forms of treatment(s), including no surgery. The informed consent process attempts to define principles of risk disclosure that should generally meet the needs of most patients in most circumstances.

However, informed consent documents should not be considered all-inclusive in defining other methods of care and risks encountered. Your plastic surgeon may provide you with additional or different information that is based on all the facts in your particular case and the current state of medical knowledge.

Informed consent documents are not intended to define or serve as the standard of medical care. Standards of medical care are determined on the basis of all of the facts involved in an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and as practice patterns evolve.

**It is important that you read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent on the next page.**

## CONSENT for SURGERY/PROCEDURE or TREATMENT

1. I hereby authorize Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and such assistants as may be selected to perform **Placement of Breast Implant Following Reconstruction by Tissue Expansion Surgery.**

I have received the following information sheet: **Placement of Breast Implant Following Breast Reconstruction by Tissue Expansion Surgery.**

2. I recognize that during the course of the operation and medical treatment or anesthesia, unforeseen conditions may necessitate different procedures than those stated above. I therefore authorize the above physician and assistants or designees to perform such other procedures that are in the exercise of his or her professional judgment necessary and desirable. The authority granted under this paragraph shall include all conditions that require treatment and are not known to my physician at the time the procedure is begun.
3. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics considered necessary or advisable. I understand that all forms of anesthesia involve risk and the possibility of complications, injury, and sometimes death.
4. I understand what my surgeon can and cannot do, and understand there are no warranties or guarantees, implied or specific, about my outcome. I have had the opportunity to explain my goals and understand which desired outcomes are realistic and which are not. All of my questions have been answered, and I understand the inherent (specific) risks to the procedures I seek, as well as those additional risks and complications, benefits, and alternatives. Understanding all of this, I elect to proceed.
5. I consent to be photographed or televised before, during, and after the operation(s) or procedure(s) to be performed, including appropriate portions of my body, for medical, scientific or educational purposes, provided my identity is not revealed by the pictures.
6. For purposes of advancing medical education, I consent to the admittance of observers to the operating room.
7. I consent to the disposal of any tissue, medical devices, or body parts that may be removed.
8. I am aware that there are potential significant risks to my health with the utilization of blood products, and I consent to their utilization should they be deemed necessary by my surgeon and/or his/her appointees.
9. I authorize the release of my Social Security number to appropriate agencies for legal reporting and medical-device registration, if applicable.
10. I understand that the surgeons' fees are separate from the anesthesia and hospital charges, and the fees are agreeable to me. If a secondary procedure is necessary, further expenditure will be required.
11. I realize that not having the operation is an option. I opt out of having this procedure \_\_\_\_\_.
12. IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO ME IN A WAY THAT I UNDERSTAND:  
a. THE ABOVE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE TO BE UNDERTAKEN  
b. THERE MAY BE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES OR METHODS OF TREATMENT  
c. THERE ARE RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE OR TREATMENT PROPOSED

I CONSENT TO THE TREATMENT OR PROCEDURE AND THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS (1-12).  
I AM SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Person Authorized to Sign for Patient

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_