

## A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

### Possible Risk of Rare Form of Lymphoma In Association with Breast Implants

#### General Principles:

- Your surgeon should appropriately inform you of all potential risks inherent in surgery and insertion of prosthetic devices.
- Infection control standards are extremely important in breast implant surgery to ensure the best outcomes. Members of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons are expertly trained to ensure the highest standards of patient safety and lowest risk of infection.
- The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Australasian Foundation of Plastic Surgery have pioneered the new national Breast Device Registry to help answer questions about such low incidence occurrences like ALCL.
- Read the information below and refer to your surgeon for more information or an explanation.

#### Facts:

1. All breast implants carry a risk of capsular contracture (hardening of the breast tissue around the implant) with no reference to cancer.
2. There have been some reports of a possible association between breast implants and a rare form of lymphoma (ALCL). Relative to the many millions of breast implants in the global community there are only a small number of reported cases (globally, about 300 reported cases of this rare lymphoma in women with breast implants).
3. Your consultation is an opportunity to discuss all risks associated with surgery including the choice of implant and the steps your surgeon takes to avoid bacterial contamination of the implant at time of surgery.
4. A 14 point plan has been developed for surgeons to help reduce the risk of infection in breast implantation surgery.

5. In the unlikely event that you were to contract this rare form of lymphoma in the breast, treatment might include removal of the implants, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. While chances of cure are good, there would be a remote chance of the disease spreading or not responding to treatment.
6. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the Government body responsible for the approval of the use of all medical devices including breast implants.
7. Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons has proactively advised the TGA of the reported cases and the TGA is monitoring the situation and provides up to date information on its website.
8. An annual check is recommended and if you discover any changes then arrange to see your surgeon sooner.

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