

Four boob jobs fixed each week

HEALTH
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A GOLD Coast surgeon says he is being called on to fix as many as four botched boob jobs a week.

Dr Craig Layt said women were returning from Thailand with problems which cost as much to fix as having the breast implants done here.

Breast augmentation and lift procedures typically cost at least twice as much on the Coast as in Thailand.

Overseas packages include flights, five-star hotels and hospital stays which cost in the region of \$5000.

Plastic surgeon Dr Peter Widdowson

said he had treated one woman who spent about \$7000 on a surgical trip to Thailand.

She then had to spend another \$7000 to go back after problems nine months later but still needs further surgery.

Dr Widdowson said he had consultations with about six women in two months who had returned from having surgery overseas only to develop problems later. Dr Layt said he was seeing up to four similar cases a week.

Dr Layt said many women only heard of success stories because patients with botched boob jobs were too embarrassed to speak out.

"There are a significant number of patients who are having

issues," Dr Layt said. "It's a common thing."

Dr Layt said women needed to be aware they were paying for quality in Australia.

"We can't compete on pricing because we pay our nurses appropriate Australian wages and we have all these quality control measures we need to live up to, and insurance," Dr Layt said.

"Many of these things don't have to occur in Thailand. We can certainly compete on quality, service and being looked after."

Dr Widdowson said overseas dental work did not pose as much of a risk but breast procedures were more complicated.

"It seems to me if they have problems they go back and it's

costing them the same anyway," Dr Widdowson said.

"I'm certainly concerned. When it comes to breast implants it's a foreign body and you don't really know the standards of surgery."

Dr Dilip Gahankari said he would see one or two women a month who had undergone surgery in places such as South Africa or Brazil. "We're seeing more and more women like this," Dr Gahankari said.

Some Gold Coast surgeons are taking part in a new online campaign to educate women about doctors and overseas work. Launched this week, breast.com.au features a seven-day call centre to help women research surgeons.