

Mending the Myths: Facts about Silicone Gel-Filled Breast Implants

Myth	vs. Fact
<p>In general, silicone products are not safe for use in the body.</p>	<p>Silicone is used safely in the body in many medical devices and products, including pacemakers, heart valves, artificial joints and baby pacifiers.</p>
<p>Silicone gel-filled breast implants rupture during activities such as daily exercise or routine mammography.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that a silicone gel-filled breast implant would rupture during routine physical activity or routine mammogram. Today's implants have a thicker shell, which contains an additional barrier layer that is distinct from earlier breast implant devices and is designed to withstand more than 25 times the force of a normal mammogram without failure.</p> <p>Breast implants, saline and silicone, are not lifetime devices. It is possible at some point in a patient's lifetime that the implant(s) would need to be removed or replaced; at that time, the patient should consult her physician.</p>
<p>Silicone gel-filled breast implants cause diseases including cancer and connective tissue diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.</p>	<p>Silicone gel-filled breast implants are among the most studied medical devices in existence, with thousands of peer-reviewed and published reports on studies, including robust epidemiological studies supporting their safe use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous studies have shown no conclusive evidence linking silicone and illnesses such as cancer, neurological disease and connective tissue disorders like rheumatoid arthritis and Lupus. • The National Institute of Health's Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a landmark 400-page report in 1999, entitled "Safety of Silicone Breast Implants," which concluded that "a review of the toxicology studies of silicones and other substances known to be in breast implants does not provide a basis for health concerns."
<p>Breast implants can adversely impact a mother's breast milk and her ability to breast feed.</p>	<p>The 1999 IOM report concluded that there is "no evidence of elevated silicone in breast milk or any other substance found in women with silicone gel-filled breast implants that would be harmful to infants."</p> <p>The committee strongly concluded that all mothers with implants should attempt breast feeding and stated that "evidence for health effects in children related to maternal breast implants is insufficient or flawed."</p>
<p>Breast augmentation surgery results in unnatural and often disproportionate results.</p>	<p>Women seek breast implant surgery for various reasons, including to restore their breast size and shape following significant life events such as child bearing.</p> <p>Allergan's NATRELLE™ Collection of breast implant options provides surgeons an unprecedented array of implant options and enables them to select the implant size, shape, texture and implant filler – saline or silicone gel – that will provide a result that is in line with a woman's expectation of surgery.</p>