



*Better  
Together*

Patient information

**Implant Information**

Breast Services Directorate

## **Types of Breast Implant**

- **Shape**

Breast implants have traditionally been round, but implants are now made which are breast shaped.

- **Surface**

The implants have a rough surface, which reduces the occurrence of capsule formation.

## **Breast Implant Materials**

- **Silicone**

This is the most commonly used material in breast implants. Recently cohesive silicone gel has been introduced. This gel stays in the same place even if there is rupture of the implant capsule.

- **Saline**

These implants are filled with salty water.

## **Silicone Implants**

### **Does Silicone cause connective tissue diseases or cancer?**

There is no evidence for this. Both these diseases are common. Many women have had breast implants, and by chance a number will also develop these other diseases. But they are no more common in those with implants than the normal population. A recent government scientific report produced this year has confirmed this.

## **So why have Dow Corning paid out so much money?**

Our understanding is that this was a purely pragmatic decision - it was cheaper to pay out than to defend their position in the courts in the USA against many individual claims. They have never accepted that their implants have caused any harm.

## **What about children?**

There is no evidence for an increase of illness in children of women with silicone breast implants.

## **What about breastfeeding?**

There is no interference with the ability to breastfeed.

## **Breast Screening**

Women with breast implants should continue to be screened. Breast screening arrangements are not affected by the presence of an implant.

However, women should inform those carrying out the screening of the presence of an implant so that screening techniques can be modified appropriately.

## Further information

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