

Breast Reconstruction Options



IMMEDIATE OR DELAYED RECONSTRUCTION:

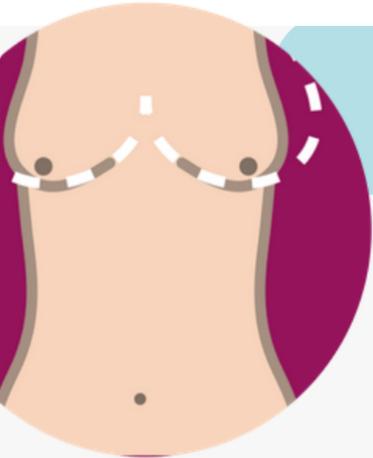
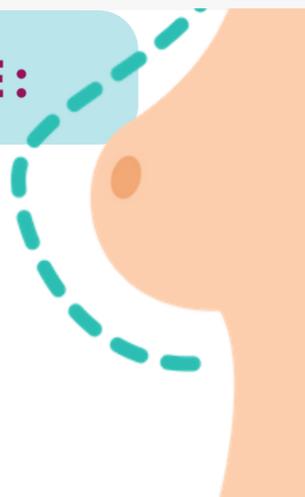
Immediate Reconstruction: The reconstruction process is started at the same time as the mastectomy.

Delayed Reconstructions: Mastectomy is performed first and after several weeks or months of healing then reconstruction is performed. Most patients require more than 1 surgery to complete the reconstruction process.

BREAST IMPLANTS OR NATURAL TISSUE:

Breast implants: Silicone or saline implants are used during a breast reconstruction to restore the volume of the breast.

Natural Tissue: The excess fat, muscle, blood vessels and potentially skin from your own abdomen or other are used to recreate a breast.



TISSUE EXPANDER OR DIRECT TO IMPLANT

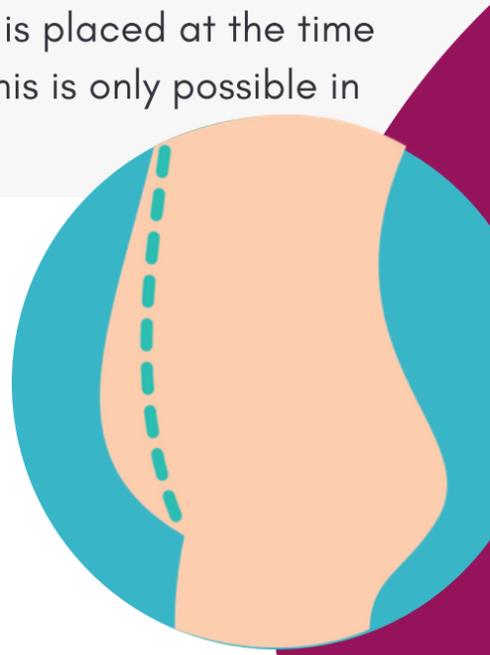
Tissue expander: A temporary device is used to expand the breast skin and create a breast mound and is replaced by a permanent silicone or saline implant. The majority of women undergoing breast reconstruction have this procedure.

Direct to implant: Permanent silicone or saline implant is placed at the time of mastectomy and the expansion process is avoided. This is only possible in women with sufficient skin after mastectomy.

TRAM FLAP OR DIEP FLAP

TRAM Flap: A natural tissue reconstruction where fat and skin from the lower tummy along with abdominal muscles are used to create the breast.

DIEP Flap: A natural tissue reconstruction where fat and skin from the lower tummy are used to make a breast but the abdominal muscles are left on the belly.



TYPE OF IMPLANTS:



Saline Round: Silicone shell filled with sterile saltwater during surgery.

Silicone Shell: Silicone shell prefilled with silicone gel. FDA approved since 2006.

Gihcome Shaped: aka gummy bears implants. Silicone shell prefilled with a more highly cohesive silicone gel.

FREE TRAM OR PEDICLED TRAM

Free TRAM: The muscle, fat, etc. is entirely removed from the abdomen and placed in the breast area, so the blood vessels must be re-attached.

Pedicled Tram: The flap stays connected to its original blood supply and is brought up through the abdomen leading to a shorter surgical time.

Fat grafting: Fat is liposuctioned from one part of the patient's body, purified and then injected into the breast.