



Silicone Breast Implants, what the experts say.

According to the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#) National Clearinghouse of Plastic Surgery Procedural Statistics, there were 296,203 [breast augmentation](#) procedures and 93,083 [breast reconstruction](#) procedures performed in the U.S. in 2010.

[Dr. Joseph G. Bauer](#), surgeon and founder of [The Swan Center for Plastic Surgery](#), is one of the leading breast surgeons in the country and over the past several years has worked collectively with the FDA in the study of breast implants and their benefits and risks. Approximately 5 to 10 million women worldwide have breast implants according to the FDA, who just released the findings of its most recent study.

Based on the FDA's report, women should know:

Breast implants are not lifetime devices-Mentor (a major breast implant supplier) recommends having your breast implants removed and replaced every 10 years. "Removal and replacement is very common procedure," says Bauer. "Many women come to my practice with silicone implants that are 20 years old. The recovery is very similar to the original breast augmentation and the results are just as good if not better."

There is a possibility for complications-Most commonly; capsular contracture (hardening of the area around the implant), reoperation (additional surgeries) and implant removal. Other common complications include implant rupture, wrinkling (or rippling), asymmetry, scarring, pain and infection. The number of women who experience these complications has not increased or decreased since the implant's release to the market. "The Swan Center has very small complication rate because we are so dedicated to our patient's recovery," says Bauer. "But patients need to be dedicated too, one of the most important parts of plastic surgery is letting your body heal at its own pace."

Preliminary data does not indicate that silicone gel-filled breast implants cause breast cancer, reproductive problems or connective tissue disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis. However, in order to rule out these and other rare complications more studies are being conducted.

Based on the totality of the evidence, the FDA believes that silicone gel-filled breast implants have a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness when used as labeled. The report is part of the FDA's ongoing effort to ensure that women who have or who may be considering silicone gel-filled breast implants are well informed. To learn more visit the FDA's website dedicated to breast implants www.fda.gov/breastimplants