

Conclusions from the Institute of Medicine

1. There is **no evidence that silicone implants are responsible for any major diseases of the whole body**. Women are exposed to silicone constantly in their daily lives.
2. There is no plausible evidence of a novel autoimmune disease caused by implants.
3. The committee found no increase in either primary or recurrent breast cancer in women with breast implants. Some studies even suggest a lower rate of breast cancer in implanted women.
4. There is no danger in breast-feeding; cows' milk and infant formulas have a far higher level of silicon, a silicone component, than mothers' milk. Breast milk is best for babies.
5. The major problems with implants are local, but not life-threatening, complications. These include implant removal, ruptures, deflations, capsular contracture, infection, and pain.
6. Many women will have secondary problems such as severe contracture, rupture, and implant removal.
7. **Implants do not last forever**; risks accumulate over time, and many women should expect to have more than one operation or implant in their lifetime.
8. Some women with breast implants are indeed very ill. However, the committee can find no evidence that these women are sick because of their implants.

Information for Women about the Safety of Silicone Breast Implants; Institute of Medicine; National Academy Press, 2000, pg 20

In March, 2017, the FDA issued a warning that implants are related to the development of ALCL (anaplasty large cell lymphoma) and it appears to be related to textured implants. With implants, the risk of developing ALCL is estimated to be 1:30,000. Treatment is complete removal of the capsule around the implant.

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