

Informed Consent – Reduction Mammoplasty

General information

Women who have large breast may experience a variety of problems from the weight and size of their breast such as back, neck, and shoulder pain, and skin irritation. Breast reduction is usually performed for relief of these symptoms rather than to enhance the appearance of the breasts. The best candidates for surgery are those who are mature enough to understand the procedure and have realistic expectations about the results. There are a variety of different surgical techniques used to reduce and reshape the female breast. There are both risks and complications associated with reduction mammoplasty surgery.

Alternative Treatment

Reduction mammoplasty is an elective surgical operation. Alternative treatment would consist of not undergoing the surgical procedure, physical therapy to treat pain complaints, or wearing undergarments to support large breasts. In selected patients, Liposuction has been used to reduce the size of large breasts. Risks and potential complications are associated with alternative surgical forms of treatment.

Risk of Reduction Mammoplasty Surgery

Change in Nipple and Skin Sensation: You may experience a diminished (or loss) if sensitivity of the nipples and the skin of your breast. Partial or permanent loss of nipple sensation can occur after a reduction mammoplasty in one or both nipples. Nipple sensation may be lost if nipple graft techniques are used for breast reduction. Changes in sensation may affect sexual response or the ability to breast feed a baby. In rare circumstances the nipple may be lost entirely.

Skin Contour Irregularities: Contour and shape irregularities may occur after reduction mammoplasty. Visible and palpable wrinkling can occur. One breast may be smaller than the other. Nipple position and shape will not be identical one side to the next. Residual skin irregularities at the ends of the incisions or “dog ears” are always a possibility when there is excessive redundant skin. This may improve with time, or it can be surgically corrected.

Asymmetry: Some breast asymmetry naturally occurs in most women. Differences in terms of breast and nipple shape, size, or symmetry may also occur after surgery. Additional surgery may be necessary to revise asymmetry after a reduction mammoplasty.

Unsatisfactory Result: Although good results are expected, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied, on the results that may be obtained. You may be disappointed with the results of reduction mammoplasty surgery. Asymmetry in nipple location, unanticipated breast shape and size, loss of function, wound disruption poor healing, and loss of sensation may occur after surgery. Breast size may be incorrect. Unsatisfactory surgical scar location or visible deformities at the ends of the incisions (dog ears) may occur. More surgery may be necessary to thin breast tissue that is outside of the normal surgical location for reduction mammoplasty and to improve your results.

It is important that you're read the above information carefully and have all of your questions answered before signing the consent.

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