



## **Breast Implants**

### **Do breast implants increase my risk of breast cancer?**

There have been several large-scale epidemiologic studies that have followed women with breast implants for long periods of time. These studies show there is no increased risk of breast cancer. In fact some studies report a decreased incidence of breast cancer. The reason for this is unknown.

### **I have breast implants should I have a mammogram?**

Even though visualization of all breast tissue is decreased with implants, mammography remains the recommended screening study. Different techniques are required to improve breast visualization. Implants placed under the chest muscle allow better visualization than implants placed under the breast and on top of the muscle. It may be more difficult to detect breast cancers with mammography in a woman with breast implants.

### **Does mammogram increase the risk of breast implant rupture?**

Implant rupture may occur with or without mammograms. A review of the world literature reveals only 58 cases of implant rupture related to mammography from 1992-2005. Despite the small increased incidence of implant rupture, mammograms remain the screening test of choice for women with breast implants.

### **Are there alternatives to mammography in women with breast implants?**

Alternatives such as ultrasound and MRI have been studied but have not been as accurate as mammography for primary breast screening. Both ultrasound and MRI may be useful in certain cases for diagnostic purposes.