



POLYURETHANE IMPLANTS

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Reducing Risk

SPECIALIST PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON **DR MARK VUCAK** SAYS SILIMED IMPLANTS ARE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR MANY WOMEN.

For the past 20 years, Dr Mark Vucak has been specialising in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Based in Queensland, breast augmentation is by far the most popular procedure requested by the women attending his clinic, and Dr Vucak has performed implant procedures on more than 3,500 women throughout his career.

Like many surgeons, Dr Vucak welcomed the arrival of polyurethane-coated silicone implants in Australia, and believes the many hundreds of women who undergo breast augmentation or reconstruction each year can now look forward to better long-term results.

'Capsular contracture is one of the most common risks associated with breast implant surgery,' explains Dr Vucak. 'By choosing Silimed polyurethane-coated implants, the risk of developing capsular contracture can be reduced from 10 per cent at 10 years, to just one per cent.'

Capsular contracture is a common complication of breast augmentation and refers to the tightening of scar tissue around the implant. When an implant is placed into the breast, the body recognises it as a foreign object. In order to 'contain' the implant and keep it from growing, spreading, or wandering around, the body creates a capsule of collagen fibres around it, to seal it off. This capsule is a naturally occurring tissue that can be of benefit. However, if that capsule contracts or thickens, it can squeeze the implant, causing pain, shifting, distortion and hardening of the breast.

Dr Vucak has been working with Silimed polyurethane-coated implants since they were first approved for use in Australia two years ago. 'The polyurethane coating adds a texture to the implants that interacts with the body's tissues when healing,' he explains. 'Not only is this advantageous when it comes to lowering the rate of capsular contracture, but it also means the implants are less likely to move significantly.'

Although Dr Vucak has only been using Silimed implants for two years, a number of studies have shown polyurethane-coated implants not only minimise the long-term risk of capsular contracture, but also of rotation and displacement. Movement or displacement, where the implant rotates or migrates south, can result in sagging, rippling or wrinkling of the implant surface. It can also cause aesthetic problems if an anatomical (teardrop-shaped) implant rotates.

Dr Vucak believes polyurethane-coated implants are also beneficial when performing revision procedures, for example where an implant has slipped and 'bottomed out'. 'In this instance, the adhesion offered by the polyurethane coating can be beneficial,' he says.

Ultimately, there is no substitute for safety and, with each implant made by hand and filled by hand, and with each implant carrying a 10 year warranty, Dr Vucak believes Silimed implants offer his patients the reassurance they need.

