

SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

Safety Concerns

In the early 1990s, the national health ministries of the listed countries reviewed the pertinent studies for causal links among silicone-gel breast implants and systemic and auto-immune diseases. A long-term study from Denmark found no links between silicone implants and autoimmune or connective disease. (Breiting, et al., 2004)

Further studies in 20 years later began to discuss emerging patterns. In 2013 a Dutch cohort study found a clear pattern of symptoms. Most women (75%) with silicone breast implants and unexplained systemic symptoms had pre-existent allergies, suggesting that intolerance to silicone or other substances in the implants might cause these symptoms. (Maijers, et al., 2013)

Breast Implant Illness

Breast implant illness is becoming more widely recognised. BII impacts each individual in a unique way.

Symptoms may include:

joint and muscle pain	breathing problems	rashes and skin problems
chronic fatigue	sleep disturbance	dry mouth and dry eyes
memory and concentration problems	anxiety	depression
headaches	hair loss	gastrointestinal problems

(breastcancer.org, 2020)

Symptoms can appear any time after implant surgery — some people develop symptoms immediately, while some develop them years later.

“A lot of the symptoms of BII are associated with autoimmune and connective tissue disorders, such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and scleroderma. Some people who have BII also get diagnosed with a specific autoimmune or connective tissue disorder, but many do not” (breastcancer.org, 2020)

Further reading [HERE](#) Special report on BII

Platinum

It was first reported that platinum is leaked from breast implants in the late 1990s. (Lykissa, et al., 1997)

Maharaj also used mass spectrometry to measure platinum levels in explanted breast implants and in the surrounding capsular tissue. The detection limit was 1 to 2 parts per trillion, and 0.5 gram tissue samples were analysed. (Maharaj, 2004)



Small amounts of platinum were detected in the blood (parts per trillion) and urine (parts per million based on a comparison with creatinine levels) of several women in the group exposed to breast implants. (Lykissa & Maharaj, 2006)

However a study by Brook (Brook, 2006) stated, “The experimental evidence supports the conclusion that there are no clinical consequences of the platinum in silicone breast implants.” The FDA concurs with Brook’s conclusions and believes that the results of this study do not provide an accurate indication of the leakage rate in women with breast implants (FDA, 2018)

Additional metals

This confidential report that was commissioned by the UK’s Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) also found platinum present and detected some additional, less common elements including tin, gold and lead at low levels. (LGC, 2012)

Certain different types of implants may have additional metals at trace levels:

[Mentor Saline](#) mentions tin in addition to platinum

[Mentor MemoryGel Silicone](#) platinum, arsenic, vanadium

[Allergan Natrelle Saline](#) tin and platinum

[Ideal Saline](#) tin and platinum

A 2020 article looked at the connection between specific lung diseases and breast implants. Analysis of breast implants and found additional metals in various types of breast implants. (Fireman, et al., 2018)

Suggested MELISA testing panel

Aluminium	Lead	Silicon dioxide*
Arsenic	Manganese	Tin
Chromium	Molybdenum	Titanium
Cobalt	Nickel	Tungsten
Copper	Platinum	Vanadium

* Silicone(s) is a huge variety of compounds of organic and inorganic parts, all with one or more silicon atoms. MELISA offers testing for silicon dioxide. It dissolves directly in aqueous solutions into silicic acid, which is the central atom of silicones. How far this reflects possible reactions to silicone is not known

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