

A Message To Patients About Breast Implants

Dear Patient,

You may have heard recent media reports regarding textured breast implants and an uncommon form of cancer called breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL). In July, the breast implant manufacturer Allergan issued a voluntary withdrawal of its Biocell textured breast implants and tissue expanders from the market.

BIA-ALCL is not breast cancer. It is an uncommon-but-treatable type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that can develop around breast implants. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of BIA-ALCL in women who have had only "smooth surface" breast implants or tissue expanders.

Due to the low risk of developing BIA-ALCL, the FDA does NOT recommend for women with textured breast implants to have them removed unless they are experiencing symptoms. The most common symptom is a collection of fluid around the implant or swelling, but symptoms may also include pain, a lump in the breast or lymph node in the armpit, rash, fever, weight-loss or unexpected changes in breast shape, including asymmetry.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you are encouraged to contact the office of your plastic surgeon. You may need to be evaluated and have appropriate tests ordered to determine if any treatment is indicated. Your health and safety will always be our top priority at Jarrell Plastic Surgery, PLLC.

Women who develop BIA-ALCL are usually cured by removing the implant and the scar tissue surrounding it. Some patients may require additional treatment (such as radiation or chemotherapy).

For additional information about BIA-ALCL, the website of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons ([PlasticSurgery.org/ALCL](https://www.plasticsurgery.org/ALCL)) offers a great deal of information for patients and has several links to additional resources. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the office.

We appreciate the trust you place in Jarrell Plastic Surgery, PLLC. Rest assured that we will continue to monitor any developments and keep you informed of any new information.

Sincerely,

John A. Jarrell IV, MD, FACS
Jarrell Plastic Surgery, PLLC