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Major Innovations in Breast Enlargement

By David Mobley, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Exciting new innovations have made breast enlargement a better procedure with improved results. The use of shaped cohesive gel “gummy bear” implants now gives the surgeon unprecedented ability to shape the breast and maintain volume in the upper breast. Smaller incisions, gentler techniques, and use of the Keller Funnel make the recovery easier and decrease complication rates.

Silicone gel implants are now by far the most common choice of patients seeking breast augmentation. Considering silicone gel implants look and feel more like a real breast this is easy to understand. In addition, they practically eliminate the problem of rippling and visibility sometimes seen with saline filled implants. One problem that silicone implants did not solve was maintaining fullness in the upper breast. This upper breast fullness is what gives natural breasts a more youthful appearance and almost all patients desire this fullness. It was often hard to always achieve with round silicone gel implants.

The new Style 410 tear-drop shaped implants, also called “gummy bear” implants, take breast augmentation to a whole new level by giving patients something no other implant can, long lasting fullness in the upper breast. This gives the patient a youthful and perky appearance usually only seen in young natural breasts. This new shaped cohesive gel implant appears to be very safe and was studied for more than 10 years before being approved by the FDA. I have noted that with this implant I have far greater control over the final shape of the breast, and I give patients the coveted upper breast fullness they desire.

A second important innovation, the Keller Funnel, has changed how implants are placed into the breast pocket. Most implants are now placed under the pectoralis major muscle, which improves appearance and reduces the chance of hardening (capsular contracture). Capsular contracture rates are also less if the implant never comes in contact with the skin during the procedure. The Keller Funnel makes this possible. It works like a cake decorator’s cornet for icing a cake. Once the pocket is ready, the implant is placed into this sterile cone-shaped plastic funnel. The implant is then literally squeezed into the pocket without ever touching the skin or the surgeon’s gloves.

Finally, breast augmentation today is performed in only 45 minutes to an hour and through very small incisions. The typical incision is just over an inch long and located at the edge of the areola (colored area of the nipple) or in the crease beneath the breast. The implant is sterilized with antibiotic foam and placed into the pocket with a Keller Funnel. The surgery is performed very gently in order to reduce the pain after the surgery.

Unfortunately, not all doctors who perform breast augmentation are plastic surgeons. Many call themselves cosmetic surgeons, but are unqualified to perform breast augmentation. In order to find a surgeon who is using the latest innovations and techniques it is important to seek out a plastic surgeon certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. A board certified plastic surgeon is uniquely qualified and will use the latest innovations to help you obtain the best result possible. To check doctors’ qualifications, contact the American Society of Plastic Surgeons at 1.800.514.5058 or check its website at plasticsurgery.org. 📍