

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

TOPIC: BETTER BREASTS AND TIGHTER TUMMY AFTER CANCER
REPORT: MB #4735

BACKGROUND: Mastectomies are common and highly effective procedures for those who have breast cancer or are at high risk of developing breast cancer. The procedure involves removing an entire breast, unilateral, or both breasts, bilateral. It is an effective way to combat noninvasive breast cancer, Stage I and II, Stage III— after chemotherapy, Paget's disease of the breast and locally recurrent breast cancer. A prophylactic, or preventative, mastectomy is recommended for consideration for those with a strong family history of breast cancer or have early indicators or genetic markers for developing cancer.

(Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/mastectomy/about/pac-20394670>)

ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGY: A lot of people that undergo a mastectomy opt for breast reconstruction either in the same surgery as the mastectomy, or later in life. A popular technique for breast reconstruction is the use of implants. The most common type of implants are made of a silicone gel or saline that are surgically placed either underneath or on top of the pectoral muscle. This technique, however, does not last a lifetime and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons projects their life span to be about 10 to 20 years, meaning implants may require future surgeries.

(Source: <https://www.breastcancer.org/treatment/surgery/reconstruction/types/implants>)

NEW TECHNOLOGY: Autologous, or flap, reconstruction, is a technique that uses another site on your body to provide tissue so that you can essentially become your own donor. The tissue, commonly from the tummy, butt, or thighs, is completely separated from its blood vessels and moved to another part of the body where it is attached to new blood vessels, requiring a plastic surgeon that is also skilled in microsurgery. This technique can also be done either immediately following a mastectomy or delayed for later down the road. This technique is usually projected to last a patient's entire lifetime, although a touch-up surgery is available. This technique has a wide variety of benefits; however, this option does require a longer recovery as there will now be soreness at the donor site as well.

(Source: <https://www.breastcancer.org/treatment/surgery/reconstruction/types/autologous>)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:

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If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com

