

MEDIA RELEASE

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Breast Implant Registry for improved patient safety

Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) today notified patients and surgeons registered on its Breast Implant Registry (BIR) of the confirmation overnight from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) that they have issued a consumer information update in relation to Silicone Gel Breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Protheses (PIP) of France.

The product is being recalled following concerns by the French medical device regulatory authority. The recall applies to all models of this type of implant.

“There is a possible increased incidence of ruptures with this particular product manufactured by PIP. Other implants are not affected,” said Peter Callan MBBS FRACS (Plast) MBA, President ASPS.

“PIP implants are only a small percentage of the implants used in Australia but patients are understandably concerned,” he said.

ASPS became aware of the PIP recall on Thursday 1 April 2010 following a media report from AFP and contacted the TGA. The TGA is the responsible Commonwealth body.

“As soon as we became aware of the PIP recall we contacted the TGA, the Australian device regulatory authority,” President Callan said.

“We can support patient safety and the TGA by using the Breast Implant Registry’s database to contact patients who have this type of implant,” Peter Callan said.

“That’s the value of the BIR,” he said.

The Breast Implant Registry is administered by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), is a major public health initiative and a declared quality assurance activity under the auspice of the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing’s Qualified Privilege Scheme.

The Breast Implant Registry is of significant benefit to patients, surgeons and to the furthering of medical science. The BIR is a centralised and secure body of data linking patient, procedure and prosthesis and thus enabling the collection, documentation and analysis of scientific data relating to breast implants. Registration is voluntary.

“My advice to patients with PIP breast implants is no different from the advice I would give at every surgical consultation,” Mr Callan said.

“Patients should see their surgeon if there is any discomfort, change or swelling to the breast post operatively. The surgeon can then make an assessment,” he said.

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