

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

Possible risk of lymphoma from breast implants

General Principles:

- Your surgeon should appropriately inform you of all potential risks inherent in surgery and insertion of prosthetic devices.
- Read the information below and refer to your surgeon for more information or an explanation.

Facts:

1. Your consultation is an opportunity to discuss all risks associated with surgery including the choice of implant.
2. There have been some reports of a possible association between breast implants and lymphoma.
3. These reports are of a tiny number of cases when compared to the numbers of breast implants in the community
4. At this stage, it is not clear whether having breast implants truly increases your risk of breast lymphoma or whether this is a coincidental observation only.
5. If over time it is proven that there is a slightly increased risk, and you had implants and were unlucky enough to get lymphoma in the breast it would mean removal of the implants, chemotherapy and probably radiotherapy. While chances of cure are good, there would be a remote chance of the disease spreading or not responding to treatment.
6. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the Government body responsible for the approval of the use of all medical devices. ASPS has proactively advised the TGA of the reported cases and the TGA is monitoring the situation.

ASPS Secretariat.
January 2011.