
New Adjustable Breast Implants to Alleviate the Problem of Unequal Breasts for Thousands of Women

Every woman has her own reasons for considering breast augmentation and the increasing numbers of procedures worldwide speak their own language. No surprise there, since the breasts are symbolic of a woman's sense of her own femininity and sex appeal.

Thanks to media coverage and, of course, the myriad of celebrities who have undergone the surgeon's knife, most of us are aware of some of the most common reasons given by women who undergo breast augmentation from enlarging the breasts to make the body more overtly sexy, or reshaping and enlarging breasts that have lost their shape and volume due to breast-feeding.

One of the most common "hates" women have about their breasts is asymmetry – breasts that differ in shape and size – that for some can be very pronounced. Referring to surgeons' estimates, asymmetry presents in about 80 % of the population – to a trained eye – and the number increases to 100 % when measured with appropriate tools.

According to a recent poll conducted in the United Kingdom*, millions of women are experiencing self-image problems – because of asymmetry. In the poll, 1 in 10 claimed a whole cup size difference, while almost a third admitted that one breast sat lower. Perhaps shockingly, more than a third "feel let down" when they think about their breasts, which contributes to a lack of confidence that stops them fully enjoying their lives.

The survey goes on to reveal one in five undress in the dark or away from their partner, almost 40 percent said they won't wear a bikini in public, over a quarter said it stopped them from going jogging or to the gym, 22 percent said it prevented them from being "carefree" during sex, and a shy 7 percent said it stopped them socialising.

Consultant Plastic Surgeon Mr. David Ross, who runs

an aesthetic and reconstructive practice in London, said: *"No woman has perfectly matching breasts. In some this is barely perceptible, whereas in others it is more pronounced. A whole cup-size is quite common. It is a question of what is an acceptable difference, i.e. if it is noticeable. There is no doubt that breast asymmetry can have a profound effect on many women's quality of life. For these women it is important to correct this, which is why they opt for surgery."*

Now, at last, there is help to redress Mother Nature's imperfections. Backed by the experience of Hilton Becker, MD, - who has also developed the Adjustable Saline Implants (known as Becker Implants) for reconstruction purposes – Mentor pioneered the new Spectra™ Adjustable Gel Implant, specifically to address the problem of moderate asymmetry. No other company manufactures this kind of prostheses. This state-of-the-art high profile, round implant, is comprised of Mentor's own Siltex™ textured silicone outer lumen surrounding a smaller inner lumen. This crucial adjustable inner chamber is filled with saline solution and has a self-sealing valve system. The surgeon is able, while the patient is on the operating table, to increase the volume of saline, gently and safely adjusting the breast size. When happy with the symmetry, the surgeon can simply pull the fill tube and complete the wound/skin closure.

David Ross adds, *"What the development of the Spectra has done is to address the main patient concerns. They are more aesthetically pleasing, in other words, more natural looking and they feel better"*.

"From the surgeon's perspective, the main advantage of the Spectra is that intra-operatively – while the patient is on the operating table - they allow you to make very fine adjustments to balance breast size, with all the benefits and product quality of gel implants. There is a greater degree of finesse without compromising the aesthetic requirement and comfort of the patient."

* One Poll Survey - United Kingdom

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Although some physicians may argue that asymmetry can not be fully corrected and thus should not be attempted, Mentor now offer the ability with the adjustable gel implant to intra-operatively adjust this challenging condition.

Hilton Becker, MD, plastic surgeon from Boca Raton, Florida, points out that the adjustable gel implant offers far more options e.g. in mastopexy augmentations, which represent such a complicated surgery that some surgeons perform it in two stages. The difficulty being that the mastopexy procedure tightens and elevates the tissues, while the augmentation results in implant tension in the direction exactly opposite to that of the mastopexy – resulting in excessive tension on the incision. Advantage of the adjustable implant is that it can be placed under-filled, thus decreasing tension on the incision, and patient and surgeon alike can expect less wound breakdown and improved scarring.

Dr. Becker also states that the ability to alter implant size and projection at the time of surgery eliminates the need to discard an implant that does not have the correct dimension. Other advantages for him are that the adjustable implant may be fine tuned at the time of surgery and the fill tub pulled on the operating table. Alternatively, the desired amount of saline may be added at the time of surgery and postoperative adjustment made via the injection dome. Injection ports are removed between 3 and 12 months postoperatively. This is a minor procedure performed under local anaesthesia in the office.

About Mentor

Founded in 1969, Mentor Corporation is a leading supplier of medical products for the global aesthetic medicine market. The Company develops, manufactures and markets innovative, science-based products for aesthetics markets around the world.

Mentor's breast implants are for use in both breast augmentation and breast reconstruction are of the highest quality, and made under strict standards of design and testing. Because of this, Mentor has achieved a tremendous level of respect in the medical community and is consistently recognized by physicians for outstanding product integrity.

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Mentor's silicone-gel-filled breast implants are comprised of a thick, cohesive gel. It is designed to hold its shape, yet remain soft, to retain the more natural feel that resembles actual breast tissue. This gel is contained within a solid silicone elastomer shell, and differs from some firmer, anatomically shaped products that are not as soft.

For women considering breast reconstruction or augmentation, Mentor offers a variety of specialized products tailored to the personal needs of women considering these procedures, including multiple choices in size, shape and surface texture.

Mentor continues to launch important line extensions to its existing products that add value to doctors and patients. In addition, the Company has made a number of strategic acquisitions and established key partnerships to expand its product portfolio. Mentor has leveraged its leadership position in aesthetics to expand into the cosmetic dermatology market through two development programs. The Company has acquired a range of next generation, non-animal, synthetic hyaluronic acid-based dermal filler products. They have also acquired broad rights to a range of highly purified, next generation botulinum toxin technology. Additionally, Mentor continues to expand its product portfolio through internal innovation.

Mentor employs approximately 1200 people around the world and is headquartered in Santa Barbara, California, with manufacturing and research operations in the United States, France and the Netherlands.

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