

Breast Implants' Size and Safety

Q

: What is the difference between saline and silicone breast implants? Which implant is safer? How do I choose which implant is better for me?

A

: We have a lot of patients who consider breast augmentation and with it come a lot of questions: size, incision site and, most important, saline or silicone? Silicone implants were extensively studied by plastic surgeons and the manufacturers for 14 years and the FDA has now declared them safe for general use. If safety is one of your main concerns, I would refer to the full approval from the Food and Drug Administration, and be assured that all of our studies indicate silicone implants are safe. Other countries around the world did not remove silicone implants from their market and have virtually never used saline implants.

Saline implants are filled with salt-water, and we are all about 60% saline. If a saline implant leaks, the 'bag' will deflate and the saline would be absorbed. Silicone is a family of chemical compounds made from a naturally-occurring element. If a silicone implant were to leak, it would stay in the pocket and does not harm your body. At IMAAGE, we have had a tremendous increase in our patients choosing silicone implants over the past few years. The most important factor in choosing your surgeon is to make sure they are Board Certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery.



questions or voice concerns they may have. Patients also have the opportunity to "try on" a variety of sizes and shapes of implants to see which they prefer and what I would recommend for their body type. All of these steps ensure that patient makes an aesthetically pleasing, healthy decision about size.

— Tom Haas, MD, MBA

Q

: How do I choose the right size for me?

A

: I feel that educating my patients is one of the most important things I do. At my office, IMAAGE, my staff and I meet with patients for a thorough medical history and examination. During the consultation, patients have the opportunity to ask any and all