

- Breast Augmentation: A Special Report -

*5 Things
You Must Know
BEFORE having a
Breast Procedure.*

-From Plastic Surgery Seattle-



1) Has your surgeon been trained specifically to do breast augmentation?

There are several procedures where specialists may overlap in their skill and training. For example, neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons may have the background and ability to do back surgery. For surgery of the nose, plastic surgeons, ENT surgeons and oral surgeons may all lay claim to training and skills. For breast augmentation surgery, only plastic surgeons have received training as an integral part of their surgical residency. Board certification in plastic surgery and membership in the American Society of Plastic Surgeons is a reliable sign that a surgeon is qualified to perform breast augmentation.

2) Who will be doing the anesthesia?

Most plastic surgery procedures are done safely today, however the greatest risk to health involves the administration of anesthesia or sedation. In the setting of breast augmentation, your anesthesia may be performed by the surgeon, by a nurse anesthetist, or by a physician anesthesiologist. This person has the responsibility of maintaining your comfort, your breathing and vital functions. Ideally, this person is well trained, will keep the patient out of trouble, but should also be experienced to handle any unexpected, though rare, problems that occur. This person's sole function should be performing anesthesia, not functioning as an extra nurse, and should not be doing your sur-

3) Who will be in the surgery suite?

When a patient undergoes surgery, in a hospital operating room there will be a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, a scrub technician (who assists the surgeon by passing instruments, and so forth), and a circulating nurse, who will provide equipment as needed to the operating field. This is the gold standard. This would be the easiest requirement to cut corners on regarding personnel during breast augmentation. Make sure that the anesthetist is not being asked to perform double duty as the circulating nurse, so that your comfort and safety is his or her only function. Be sure that the surgeon can concentrate on your surgery,



4) Is the surgery suite accredited?

Your surgery may be performed in a hospital, an outpatient surgical center, or in a physician's office operatory. In order to attain accreditation the facility must meet standards of safety. For hospitals the gold standard is the JCAH, or Joint Committee on Accreditation of Hospitals. For surgical centers or office operatories, the gold standard is Medicare accreditation. An operating room that is not accredited may not have been able to attain the high standard required to document the safety of that facility.

5) Is the surgeon experienced and versatile enough to be permitted to perform this procedure at a hospital?

There are surgeons who can perform any procedures they wish in their own offices, but who cannot perform those same procedures in a hospital because they cannot demonstrate a record of training in that field. The first thing to do is ascertain if the surgeon does have hospital privileges to perform breast augmentation. There are varying techniques that can be chosen by the surgeon and the patient. For example, there are three common incisions, two alternative positions for the implant, and several types of implants, which may vary in size, shape, surface and content. Each alternative has advantages and disadvantages. Most surgeons have preferences, but these should not overrule the alternatives when there is a spe-

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT US:

As a premiere Puget Sound area practice, Plastic Surgery Seattle is dedicated to our patients' safety while carefully attending to their personal needs and goals. Board certified in plastic surgery in 1998, Jourdan Gottlieb, M.D. has an extensive background in breast enhancement procedures. His philosophy is based solely on providing for your safety and your results.


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About us...

1. Dr. Gottlieb trained in Surgery and then in Plastic Surgery at Northwestern University. He is certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, and is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.
2. Dr. Gottlieb arranges that a physician, board certified in anesthesiology, is responsible for the safety and comfort of patients undergoing breast augmentation.
3. Besides Dr. Gottlieb, there will be a board-certified anesthesiologist, a scrub tech, and a circulating nurse at a minimum for a breast enlargement.
4. Patients who come to Plastic Surgery Seattle have their surgery at accredited operating rooms, either at the Seattle Surgery Center or at Swedish Medical Center. Seattle Surgery Center holds Medicare accreditation. Swedish Hospital is accredited by the JCAH.
5. Breast Augmentation is the most frequently performed aesthetic procedure that Dr. Gottlieb performs. He is careful to match the choices of incision, implant position, and implant size, shape, surface and content with the individual patient's goal.

Jourdan R. Gottlieb, MD, FACS

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