

About Reconstructive Breast Surgery

Breast reconstruction can help restore the look and feel of the breast that was removed during a mastectomy. Performed by a plastic surgeon, breast reconstruction can be done during the mastectomy surgery or in another operation. Exactly when you decide to have reconstruction depends on your wishes and the specifics of the situation. You should discuss your options with your doctor.

Answers to these questions will help you understand reconstructive surgery.

Q: What are the types of reconstructive surgery? What will my insurance cover? What type do you recommend?

A:

Q: When is the best time for me to have reconstruction — now or later? If I need radiation therapy, will it affect the results and success of the reconstructive breast surgery?

A:

Q: What are the short and long-term effects of muscle flap reconstruction versus implant reconstruction?

A:

Q: What is the chance of infection and/or rejection of an implant device? Are there any other risks or side effects to consider?

A:

Answers to these questions will help you prepare for your reconstruction and follow-up.

Q: How many operations will I need? How long is each operation? How long is the hospital stay for each? How much time is needed for recovery after each? Are there any medications to avoid before surgery?

A:

Q: Is there much pain after surgery? What body changes, such as swelling, will I have after surgery, and for how long?

A:

Q: How can I expect the reconstructed breast to look and feel? How will it compare with my other breast? Will anything need to be done to the other breast?

A:

Q: May I see pictures of reconstructive surgeries that you have done? Are you a board-certified plastic surgeon?

A:

Q: Will I be able to detect a possible recurrence after reconstructive surgery? Will I still need mammograms? Will reconstructive breast surgery change my normal breast health routine in any way?

A:

Q: If I do not choose reconstruction, what prostheses, or breast forms, are available and where do I buy them? Will insurance cover the costs?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.

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