

INSIDE & OUT

Mr FS Fahmy, consultant cosmetic surgeon, has advice for people worried about the safety of breast implants



Anxiety over PIP implants

January 16, 2012 DAILY POST

THE recent PIP implant scare is naturally alarming a number of patients. It has been disturbing and causing lots of anxiety.

The manufacturer used inferior, industrial grade silicone in some breast implants. The French authorities have determined a rupture rate of up to 11.1% for PIP compared to 2% for conventional implants.

Rupture of implants can remain unnoticed or can lead to unspecific changes. MRI scans can offer clues to determine leakage or rupture.

I can reassure my patients that PIP implants have never been used in my practice. For other patients and before considering further surgery, I recommend contacting the hospital or the surgeon where their surgery was initially undertaken, to determine the type of the implant they have.

There is another group of patients who can no longer allocate or make contact with the provider of their surgery. Unfortunately, there are no tests or investigations to indicate the type or make of the implants they had.

Removing the implant, if intact, will determine the type, make and size. In the majority of cases, the implants can be replaced in the same operation.

Although, it is important to stress that any seemingly unnecessary surgery must be discussed on a case by case basis. I would say if you have PIP implants it is best to consult with a suitably qualified surgeon, to determine what's best for you.

The recent scare is not only about dealing with the implants, it's dealing with the implants and the anxiety associated with that; the fear of the unknown.

I am pleased to know that in appreciation and recognition of the extent of the problem, the anxiety associated with it and the national recommendations by the Plastic surgery associations, the local hospital is maintaining affordable prices for scanning and any necessary procedures.

For further information: www.cosmeticplastic.co.uk. I will also be happy to respond to any enquiries, info@cosmeticplastic.co.uk