**A**

**Anatomical Implants** Implants that are shaped like a teardrop, simulating the breast shape. All anatomical implants are textured or covered with PU foam.

**Aplasia** Underdeveloped breasts, flat chest.

**Areola** The darkened ring surrounding the nipple of the breast.

**Asymmetry** Lack of symmetry in shape, size, and/or position between the two breasts.

**Augmentation Mammaplasty** Enlargement of the breast.

**Autologous Reconstruction** Breast reconstruction with tissue from the patient’s body.

**Axilla; Axillary Approach** Armpit; accessing the implant position via an incision in the armpit, along the chest wall.

**B**

**Base Size** The diameter of the round implant measured at its base when placed on a flat surface.

**Baker Grade** A method for grading capsular contracture:

- **Baker Grade I** - Breast is soft and natural in appearance
- **Baker Grade II** - Breast is slightly firm, but looks normal
- **Baker Grade III** - Breast is more firm than normal and looks abnormal (change in shape)
- **Baker Grade IV** - Breast is hard, with obvious distortion, and is painful

Baker Grades III and IV are the most severe, often resulting in the need for additional surgery (reoperation) because of possible abnormal appearance and/or pain. In some cases, Capsular contracture Baker Grade II may also result in the need for additional surgery.

**BIA-ALCL** Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large-Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) - a rare sub-type of T-cell non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

**Bi-Lateral** Pertaining to both sides.

**Bottom-Heavy Breasts** When the tissue below the breast becomes too weak or stretched, the breast can drop abnormally low.

**Borosilicate** A type of glass composed of silica and boron trioxide that is known for its outstanding mechanical strength, high chemical resistance and low thermal expansion. In its pure form, it is highly biocompatible and inert when implanted in the body.

**Breast Augmentation** A surgical procedure to increase breast size.

**Breast Implant Projection** A measure (in mm) of how far forward the implant will project from the chest wall.

**C**

**Calcification** Small calcium deposits that develop in the tissue.

**Capsule** Scar tissue which normally forms around the breast implant and any foreign body.
Capsular Contracture A tightening of the tissue capsule surrounding an implant, resulting in firmness or hardening of the breast. Capsular contracture is classified by Baker Grades. See Baker Grade.

Capsulectomy A procedure in which the capsule of tissue surrounding a breast implant is surgically removed and this procedure is generally used to fix capsular contracture.

Capsulotomy - Closed An attempt to “break” the contracted tissue capsule around the implant by pressing or pushing on the outside of the breast. This method does not require surgery, but is a known risk for rupture of the implant and is not recommended.

Capsulotomy - Open An attempt to “break” the contracted tissue capsule around the implant during surgery, by surgical incisions into the capsule.

Cohesive Gel Silicone gel that has a high level of crosslinking and tends to adhere to itself as a mass.

Contralateral On the opposite side.

Cooper’s Ligaments Suspensory ligaments of the breast.

Crosslinking The chemical connection of adjacent polymer chains. The more connection points there are, the more the gel is cohesive.

D

Dislocation Displacement (of an implant) from the original position.

E

Expander A device progressively filled with sterile saline solution to expand and stretch the tissue covering the expander and prepare the area for an implant.

Explantation The removal of breast implants.

Extra-High Profile An implant that has a very high projection when placed on a flat surface.

Extrusion A rare phenomenon where an implant breaks through the skin because the surrounding breast tissues are unable to hold the implant in place.

F

Fat Injection When fat tissue is removed from parts of the body - usually the thighs, belly, or buttocks - by liposuction. The tissue is then processed into liquid and injected into the breast area, typically to enhance the results of a breast augmentation.

Firm Capsule A condition whereby the fibrous tissue continues to contract around an implant until the breast is firm to the touch. See Capsular Contracture.

Flap Tissue taken from one part of the body and used for transplantation in another part.

Form Stable Implants Implants with a high level of cohesiveness that tend to maintain their shape and are better suited for shaping the breast.

G

Gel Bleed / Diffusion / Permeation / Sweating / Weeping The release of unattached small molecules from the silicone gel that migrate through the intact shell.
**H**

**Hematoma** A collection of blood outside the blood vessels, causing tissue swelling (internal bleeding).

**High Profile** An implant that has a high projection when placed on a flat surface.

**Hypertrophy** Pronounced scarring. Scar tissue bulges excessively.

**I**

**Iatrogenic Injury / Damage** When new injury or damage occurs to the tissue or implant as a result of implant surgery.

**Implant (Prosthesis)** A device inserted as a permanent replacement in the body.

**Implant Displacement** When the implant moves from the correct position in the breast.

**Incision** Cut into the body for surgical approach.

**Inframammary Approach** Accessing the future implant position via an incision in the fold below the breast.

**Inframammary Fold** The crease at the base of the breast.

**Inframammary Incision** An incision made in the fold below the breast.

**Intracapsular Rupture** A type of rupture in which the silicone gel remains within the scar tissue capsule surrounding the implant.

**K**

**Keloid** Bulging scar, excessive proliferation of connective tissue, occurring several weeks or months after trauma or surgery.

**L**

**Lateral** Toward the side, opposite of median.

**Latissimus Dorsi** Back muscle beneath the shoulder blade used for autologous breast reconstruction.

**Low Profile** An implant that has a low projection when placed on a flat surface.

**Lumpectomy** Surgery to remove cancer or other abnormal tissue from a portion of the breast.

**Lymphedema** The swelling of soft tissues caused by a build-up of lymph fluid.

**M**

**Macromastia** Congenital overdevelopment of breasts; very large breasts.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)** is a medical imaging technique used in radiology to form pictures of the anatomy and the physiological processes of the body in both health and disease. MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields, magnetic field gradients, and radio waves to generate images of the organs in the body. An MRI-examination currently has the best ability to detect rupture of silicone-filled breast implants.

**Malposition** Implant malposition or displacement is when the implant is not in the desired spot in the breast. This could be due to incorrect placement of the implant during the surgery or due to shifting of the implant position over time.
Mamma; Mammary  The female breast; pertaining to the female breast, the female breast glands.

Mammary Expander  Device for the expansion of female breast tissue to gain skin coverage for an implant.

Mammary Hyperplasia  Overdevelopment of breast tissue around the ducts or milk glands.

Mammary Hypoplasia  A rare condition of congenital underdevelopment of glandular tissue; May cause difficulty in breast feeding.

Mammoplasty  Plastic surgery of the breast.

Mammography  Radiographic examination of the breast.

Mastectomy  Surgical removal of the breast for the treatment or prevention of breast cancer. Also called “Ablatio Mammae”

Mastitis  Inflammation of the breast glands.

Mastopexy  Breast-lift surgery to lift sagging breasts.

Medial  Towards the middle.

Medium Profile  An implant that has a medium projection when placed on a flat surface.

Microspheres  Microscopic beads with excellent sphericity, tight tolerances and controlled particle size distributions. Used in a variety of industries, including biomedical, life sciences, microscopy, automotive, high-tech equipment and specialty applications.

Modified Radical Mastectomy  Removal of the breast, some surrounding lymph nodes, but sparing the majority of the pectoralis muscle.

Myocutaneous Flap  Transplantable tissue consisting of skin and muscles.

N

Necrosis  Injury or damage to the cells which results in premature cell death.

Nipple-Sparing Mastectomy  A type of Mastectomy where the majority of the breast tissue is surgically removed, leaving the breast skin, including the nipple and areola complex intact.

Normal Saline Solution  A sterile mixture of 0.9% salt and water used for filling inflatable, bi-luminous and gel-saline implants or expanders.

O

Overfill  The filling of a saline implant shell over and above its specified volume.

P

Pectoralis Major Muscle  The large muscle underlying the breast.

Pectoralis Minor Muscle  The smaller muscle underlying the breast.

Periareolar Approach  Accessing the implant position via an incision around a portion of the outer boundary of the areola.

Pocket  An area surgically created to contain the breast prosthesis.

Posterior  The general term applied to the back part of the body or any structure.

Prepectoral Positioning/Placement  See Subglandular Positioning/Placement.
Primary Breast Augmentation The first time a breast implant is placed for the purpose of breast augmentation.

Profile Defines attributes related to the projection of an implant. E.g. low, medium, high, or extra-high projection.

Projection A measure (in mm) of how far forward the implant will project from the chest wall.

Ptosis Sagging or hanging breast or breast tissue.

R

Radical mastectomy Removal of the breast, underlying muscle and surrounding lymph nodes.

Radiology Medical branch using imaging technologies like x-ray, ultrasound, MRI for diagnosis.

Reconstruction Re-creation of lost or deformed tissues.

Reoperation An additional surgery after first breast implantation.

Revision Augmentation Refers to the surgical attempt to correct or improve a primary augmentation. It refers to the surgical replacement of existing breast implants.

Round Implants Round shaped implants that look like a hemisphere.

S

Saline A solution that is made up of water and a small amount of salt.

Seroma Undesired aggregation of body liquids in cavities.

Sharp Dissection A separation of tissue layers with a scalpel or knife.

Shell Barrier Layer An interior barrier layer in the implant shell intended to reduce the rate and amount of gel bleed.

Silent Rupture A breast implant rupture without symptoms, which is not apparent except through appropriate imaging techniques such as MRI. Most silicone-filled breast implant ruptures are silent.

Silicone Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS), a polymer chain with a backbone composed of alternating Silicon and Oxygen atoms. The most widely used synthetic polymer in medicine.

Silicone Elastomer A Silicone rubber with reinforcing filler. Used for the creation of the implant shell.

Silicone Gel A gel made from polymerized Silicone used as a filling in breast implants.

Skin-Sparing Mastectomy A type of Mastectomy where the majority of the breast tissue is surgically removed, leaving the breast skin intact but usually removing the nipple and areola.

Smooth Breast Implants Breast implants that have a shell surface which is generally smooth.

Subcutaneous Mastectomy A type of Skin-Sparing Mastectomy where the majority of the breast tissue is surgically removed, leaving the skin, nipple, areola and a thin layer of tissue intact for reconstruction purposes.

Subglandular Positioning/Placement Placement of a breast implant on top of the chest muscle and behind the breast gland.

Subpectoral Positioning/Placement Placement of a breast implant wholly or partially underneath the Pectoralis major muscle and behind the breast gland.

Submuscular Positioning/Placement See Subpectoral Positioning/Placement.

Superior Above in relation to other parts of the body or of a structure.
T

Tear Strength The amount of force needed to tear a sample of silicone sheeting after a slight cut has been made in it.

Tensile Strength The amount of force needed to stretch a sample of silicone sheeting until it breaks.

Textured Breast Implants Breast implants that have a shell surface containing irregularly arranged concavities.

Thorax, Thoracic Chest, relating to the chest.

TRAM Flap Transverse Rectus Abdominis Muscle Flap consisting of belly skin and a section of the straight belly muscle used for autologous breast reconstruction.

Transaxillary Approach Accessing the implant position via an incision within the Axilla (armpit).

Tubular/Tuberous Breast A congenital abnormality of the breast shape where breast base diameter is scarcely larger than the areola.

U

Underfill The filling of a saline implant shell under its specified volume.

Unilateral Pertaining to one side.

V

Valve A mechanism through which additional material is added to a saline implant or expander.

W

Weeping Another term for gel bleed.

Wrinkling Term used to describe visible folds or wrinkles in the breast.