

Breast Reconstruction with Latissimus Muscle Flap

A new breast can be made with the muscle from your back. This is called a latissimus dorsi musculocutaneous flap. The muscle and skin located on the back is moved to the chest to make a new breast. The muscle flap has its own blood supply to feed the tissue that is moved to the chest wall. In some cases, your plastic surgeon may think it is best to have a breast implant. This would be placed under the muscle flap to give your breast a better shape.

How long will I be in the operating room?

Most patients are in the operating room 3 to 4 hours. This does not include the time it takes to remove the breast.

How long will I be in the hospital?

Most patients are usually in the hospital for 2 to 3 days. This depends on how well the patient tolerates the procedure.

Where will my scar be?

The plastic surgeon will make a diagonal incision on one side of the back along your bra line. Once your incision is healed, your bra will help hide the scar line. Some women think the location of the scar is a

More on next page →

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disadvantage. Other women think it is not difficult to hide using the back of their bra.

What are the risks?

The most common risks for this surgery are infection and fluid build-up under the new breast. If you have an infection, your doctor will order antibiotics. If you have a fluid build-up, it can be drained with a needle.

There are other risks with any operation. Be sure to talk to your doctor about them if you decide to have reconstructive surgery.

Breast Implants Risks

Although there has been much discussion in the past regarding the safety of breast implants, numerous studies have shown them to be safe. The most common risks involved with breast implants are infection and firmness of the implant, also called capsular contracture. Both of these risks can lead to further surgery. Other risks involved include skin wrinkling over the implant and leaking of the implant. Be sure to talk to your doctor about any questions or concerns you may have.

How is a nipple and areola made?

The last part of breast reconstruction is making a nipple and an areola. The areola is the colored area around the nipple. This will be done about 3 months after your new breast is made.

The nipple is made using skin on the new reconstructed breast. This skin is lifted in a way that causes it to project outward, making it look like a natural nipple. Once this new nipple is healed, the breast is ready for the new areola.

A new areola is made by tattooing. The medical name for tattooing is micropigmentation. The plastic surgeon will try to match the color and shape on the natural breast as closely as possible.

Please ask your nurse for the specific patient education materials on nipple reconstruction and areola tattooing.

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**