



as seen in

# the facts on Brazilian implants

Studies have shown that new Brazilian breast implants can reduce some of the risks associated with breast implant surgery. **Kirsty Doolan** reports.

According to Brisbane-based Dr Daniel Fleming, there has been a quantum leap in what is available for women considering breast augmentation, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recently approving the use of Silimed breast implants in Australia.

Manufactured in Brazil, the Silimed implant is made with soft, cohesive silicone gel and covered with a layer of polyurethane foam. Research has shown the implant has a number of benefits, such as reduced risk of capsular contracture and displacement.

## Lower risk

The most common complication associated with breast augmentation is capsular contraction. This occurs when the membrane that grows around the implants contracts and compresses, causing the implant to harden and sometimes change shape. When this occurs the implant needs to be removed and replaced.

This risk is significantly reduced with the Silimed Brazilian breast implant – otherwise known as the ‘furry Brazilians’ because of the feel of the implant surface.

## breasts



BEFORE



AFTER breast augmentation by Dr Fleming using 305cc full height teardrop Silimed implants placed under the muscle



AFTER breast augmentation by Dr Fleming using 305cc full height teardrop Silimed implants placed under the muscle

‘These implants dramatically reduce the risk of capsular contraction. Brazilian implants cut this risk from about 10 percent down to 1 percent in comparison with other implants,’ says Dr Fleming.

The capsule is made of microscopic tubes of collagen fibres, and in the capsules of smooth or textured implants these fibres run in the same direction and line up end-on-end. This means if stimulus to contraction occurs, the fibres can slide over one and another, shortening and causing a ‘shrink wrap’ effect around the implant.

With the Brazilian implants, the polyurethane foam becomes part of the capsule and this stabilises the implant, similar to scaffolding, which the collagen fibres wrap themselves around. The fibres are disjointed and not lined up, so this means they are less likely to slide over each other, which makes capsular contraction less likely.

**‘The implants are covered in a layer of polyurethane foam, which stabilises the implants and prevents them from rotating’**

Other problems associated with breast implant surgery include implant rotation and displacement. While rotation is inconsequential if the implant is round, it can cause aesthetic problems if a teardrop implant is chosen and it rotates upside-down or sideways. Displacement (moving up or down from the correct position) can affect both round and teardrop implants. Silimed implants are very unlikely to displace (thereby largely removing the relatively common risk of ‘bottoming out’) and have never been known to rotate.

‘Silimed implants are covered in a layer of polyurethane foam, which integrates with the capsule and stabilises the implants, preventing them from rotating or moving from their original position,’ explains Dr Fleming. ‘This means patients now have the option of a teardrop implant – without the risk of it spinning around or becoming displaced.’

**‘Research has shown the Brazilian implants have a number of benefits, such as reduced risk of capsular contracture’**

## Tried & tested

Dr Fleming has been using the Silimed Brazilian implants for five years and is so confident in their benefits and safety he now uses them exclusively.

‘Implants with a polyurethane covering have been used for more than 40 years overseas, so we know they are safe in the long term,’ he says. ‘I’ve had a lot of experience using smooth surfaced, textured and polyurethane implants. My experience has confirmed the overseas findings, which is that polyurethane foam implants offer significant benefits to patients.’

Dr Fleming is such an advocate for the merits of polyurethane foam implants he is now the biggest user of this style of implant in the world and has recently returned from lecturing about the implants in São Paulo, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

‘I recommend any woman considering a breast augmentation to ensure she is fully informed of this option before making her choice of implant,’ he concludes. **acsm**