

About Reconstructive Breast Surgery

Breast reconstruction can help restore the look and feel of the breast that was removed during a total mastectomy. Done by a plastic surgeon, breast reconstruction can be completed during the total 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 different 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 — immediate or delayed reconstruction? 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 consequences with 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 are needed? How long is each surgical procedure? How long of a hospital stay is necessary 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, may I experience following surgery, and for how long?

A:

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

A:

Q: May I see pictures of reconstructive surgeries that you have performed?

A:

Q: Will I be able to detect a possible recurrence after reconstructive surgery? Is a mammogram still recommended for me? 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?

A: