Oncology

BIA-ALCL and Breast Implants

What is BIA-ALCL?

Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) is a rare type of cancer associated with the use of breast implants for cosmetic or reconstructive surgery. It is a type of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, which affects cells of the body's immune system. It has only recently been discovered, with the first UK case reported in 2012. The exact cause is still unknown.

What is the risk of BIA-ALCL?

As of July 2019 there had been 72 reported cases of BIA-ALCL in the UK. This equates to an estimated figure of 1 case in every 24000 breast implants sold.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/breast-implants-and-anaplastic-large-cell-lymphoma-alcl

What are the symptoms of BIA-ALCL?

In most cases, patients develop a swelling of the breast more than 1 year after the implant is inserted. More rarely, it can present with a change in shape of the breast or a mass in the breast. To diagnose the condition, your surgeon will perform scans of the breast and sampling of any fluid around the implant.

Does the type of implant used make a difference?

Breast implants consist of a soft silicone centre contained within a silicone shell. The shell of the implant can be smooth or have a textured surface. Implants with a textured surface have cosmetic benefits over smooth implants, particularly when using teardrop-shaped implants in breast reconstruction after mastectomy. Implants with a more highly textured shell appear to carry a higher risk of BIA-ALCL.

What if I have had textured implants inserted?

The risk of developing BIA-ALCL remains low. There is currently no recommendation that textured implants should be removed or replaced. All patients who have had breast implants need to be aware of the symptoms to watch out for and present to their breast or plastic surgeon with any concerns.

compassionate care

Our practice in Calderdale and Huddersfield

In our unit we now use Mentor implants, which appear to have a low risk of BIA-ALCL when compared to more highly textured implants. The details of all of our implants are entered into the National Breast Implant Registry to keep track of any future problems. We would encourage any women who develop new symptoms after breast implant insertion to seek medical advice and will gladly answer any questions that patients may have about the condition.

Further information can be found from the following sources:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/breast-implants-and-anaplastic-large-cell-lymphoma-alcl
https://associationofbreastsurgery.org.uk/clinical/bia-alcl/
https://baaps.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/biaalcl_information_1.pdf

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If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

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www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,

ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉੱਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
براہِ مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"

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