

Q

**What difference is there in results between silicone gel breast implants and saline filled implants? Which is better?**

A

Silicone gel implants were FDA approved for use in January of 2007. This followed many years of study after unsubstantiated and highly publicized objects in the early 90s led to a government mandated moratorium on their use. Their record so far shows no difference in outcome (complications, capsular contracture, failures, etc) from saline implants. Both implants are equally safe. This generation of gel implants has all but eliminated the problem of gel "bleed" (small amounts of gel that used to migrate throughout the fell and appear outside the implant.) Because gel implants are softer to the touch and behave like the normal body tissues, they may be preferred choice for implants placed over the pectoralis muscle. They are about twice the price of saline implants, however. If placed under the muscle, one would probably be hard pressed to see a difference unless the patient is unusually thin. Since their re-introduction almost two years ago, gel implants are now placed in about 50% of all patients undergoing breast augmentation in this country. My patients have been very happy with their results using both implants.

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