

Breast Implant Registry Gathers Vital Information

October 28, 2003 -- San Diego - The National Breast Implant Registry (NaBIR) has the vital purpose of obtaining data on the pattern of usage of breast implants, as V. Leroy Young, M.D. presented yesterday. Currently, there are 34 sites entering data in NaBIR and four countries participating in the international registry. So far, change in size is the most common indication for explantation (see detailed breakdown below).

After two years, 7,353 implants have been entered into the registry, which was founded by the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation. Ninety-nine percent of these implants were saline-filled and about 1 percent were silicone-gel-filled. About 75 percent of these implants (5,444) were placed in a subpectoral position and the remaining 25 percent (1,809) were placed in the subglandular position.

The registry also tracks indications for explantation. During the first two years, 745 explants were entered into the database. Request for change in size was the most common indication for explantation (255 or 34 percent), followed by capsular contracture (236 or 32 percent), rupture (214 or 29 percent), patient request (189 or 25 percent), implant displacement (44 or 6 percent), skin wrinkling (8 or 1 percent), abnormal feel (7 or 1 percent), and pain (11 or 1 percent). To date, only two breast cancers have been reported.

After three years of following women with breast implants data, the vast majority of re-operations are performed for women requesting a change in implant size.

"We started the registry to get information about breast implants, said Dr. Young, M.D., chair, NaBIR. "We wanted to know the size of the implant, which incisions were being used, how the implant was being placed, and what type of short-term and long-term complications might occur after augmentation and reconstruction. Through the registry, we are seeing a trend for women who request a size change. By using this data, we could decrease this particular re-operation rate."

Of note, another paper presented by Robert Centeno, M.D. at this meeting examined the safety of using larger breast implant, measuring more than 350-400 cc - a size beyond which some surgeons oppose. After investigating more than 270 primary augmentation patients, the study found that larger-volume implants do not cause more complications or re-operations than smaller implants.

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