

## Comparing the Benefits and Risks of Saline and Silicone Gel Implants

	Silicone Gel Implants	Saline Implants
Appearance	Look and feel more natural than saline implants, especially for patients with less natural breast tissue. "Rippling" less likely than with saline implants.	Unnatural looking and feeling to some people. Patients with less natural breast tissue may develop "rippling."
Availability	Available to patients age 22 and older.	Available to patients age 18 and older.
Incision Length	Longer incision (4.5 – 5.5 cm). Implant must be filled before being inserted into the body.	Shorter incision (3 cm. avg. length). Implant is inserted the body, then filled with saline.
Incision Site(s)	Inframammary fold (under the breast). Other insertion sites not recommended due to the incision length	Inframammary fold (under the breast), armpit, areola or navel.
Rupture Risk	Thick shell helps prevent rupture. If a rupture occurs, cohesive gel does not run or spread. A rupture may not be detectable without an MRI or mammogram.	Thick shell helps prevent rupture. Implant deflates rapidly when ruptured; saline filling is absorbed into the body. Deflation is immediately apparent, as breast volume is noticeably decreased.
Potential Health Risks	Risks of surgery itself, infection, scarring, capsular contracture (hardening of the pocket around the implant). Still some unanswered questions regarding implant safety.	Risks of surgery itself, infection, scarring, capsular contracture (hardening of the pocket around the implant).
Cost	Avg. \$3,000—more than twice the cost of saline implants*	Avg. \$1,200*
Follow-Up Care	FDA recommends an MRI three years after surgery and every two years thereafter. Patient should also have routine mammograms.	Routine mammograms.

\*This amount represents the cost of the implants alone. The total cost of breast augmentation surgery also includes fees for the surgeon, anesthesiologist and surgical facility.

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