

Dictated on 18th February, 2014

Our ref: sm/gl

Dear Doctor,

RE: Health Consequences of Contaminated PIP Silicone Breast Implants

I have been interested in the health effects of silicone implants for many years now and in the wake of the recent criminal action whereby contaminated implants were used I have been contacted by a great many of sufferers who are looking for guidance.

The problem with silicone implants is that the bag in which they are contained is semi-permeable. This means that silicones within the implant, together with other contaminants, slowly leak into the body, where they can cause problems for reasons of toxicity or reasons of sensitivity. We know silicones, in particular, can act as immune adjuvants to switch on the system and clinically this can result in auto-immunity and/or allergy.

There are many women experiencing constellations of symptoms which could be explained by the above mechanisms. The difficulty is in teasing out those who could expect to see improvement from ex-plantation of their silicone breast implants and those who probably would not. A test which can be helpful in this respect is a lymphocyte sensitivity test to silicone. The idea here is a blood sample from the patient is taken, and the degree to which lymphocytes are activated (as measured by calcium influx) is measured when these lymphocytes are put in contact with silicones, in vitro.

A strongly positive test would increase the imperative for explantation of the implant. However, as I am sure you are aware, no test is perfect – one could not guarantee complete recovery having removed an implant but my experience is that the chances of success would be increased.

This test is available from Acumen Laboratory, P.O. Box 129, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 0AJ, acumenlab@hotmail.co.uk

Another possibility would be for your patient to request a test through my website – I can send them the appropriate kit and then interpret their test result in the light of their history, see:- http://drmyhill.co.uk/wiki/Lymphocyte_sensitivity_to_silicone

Please get in touch with me directly if you would like further information: office@doctormyhill.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sarah Myhill