Things to Consider Before Getting Breast Implants

There are several important things to consider before deciding to undergo breast implant surgery. Below are some things the FDA thinks you should consider before undergoing breast augmentation, reconstruction or revision surgery.

• Breast implants are not lifetime devices; the longer you have your implants, the more likely it will be for you to have them removed.
• You should assume that you will need to have additional surgeries (reoperations) because breast implants are not lifetime devices and complications can occur.
• Even if you have complications, the cost of implant removal or implant replacement may not be covered by insurance.
• The longer you have breast implants, the more likely you are to experience local complications and adverse outcomes, which may be cosmetically undesirable and irreversible.
• The most common local complications and adverse outcomes are capsular contracture, reoperation and implant removal. Other complications include rupture or deflation, wrinkling, asymmetry, scarring, pain, and infection at the incision site. For a more complete list of complications and adverse outcomes that may occur for a specific breast implant, you should ask your surgeon for the manufacturer’s patient labeling and educational materials.
• Read the manufacturer’s patient labeling and other educational materials carefully and discuss any questions you have with your surgeon before deciding.
• There are different shapes, styles and textures of breast implants; discuss your goals and expectations and the benefits and risks of breast implants with your surgeon.
• If you have your implants removed but not replaced, you may experience changes to your natural breasts such as dimpling, puckering, wrinkling, breast tissue loss, or other undesirable cosmetic changes.

For more detailed information about breast implants, visit www.fda.gov/breastimplants.