

Appendix 1, Supplemental Digital Content 1

Education Provided to Respondents Within Question-stems

1. According to the FDA, there is a possible association between breast implants and the development of a rare cancer of white blood cells called anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL). Over 400 cases have been reported to date and 9 patients are believed to have passed away from ALCL in the US. Although the exact risk is unknown, the estimated risk is about 1 in every 30,000 cases of breast implants in the US. The FDA has not yet passed any regulations regarding ALCL, and patients with breast implants are not currently recommended to have them removed or to undergo any special screening beyond routine follow-up for implants. Given this information, has your opinion of breast implants changed?
2. Certain types of implants with a rough surface texture are believed to be particularly associated with developing ALCL. This texturing is meant to prevent the implant from moving after its been placed. Although the risk is believed to be lower with smooth, non-textured implants, there have been cases of ALCL reported with these as well. Although some surgeons have moved away from using textured implants for this reason, they are still commercially available and some surgeons still use them. Given the risk of ALCL, would you be willing to receive a breast implant for (cosmetic/reconstructive) purposes?
3. As an alternative to implant-based reconstruction, it is possible to use your own tissues (either from the belly, thighs, back, or buttocks) for breast reconstruction. These procedures are more extensive, and require longer hospitalizations and longer recovery times. However, patient satisfaction with these procedures is the same - if not higher - long-term compared to implant-based reconstruction. Given the risk of ALCL with breast implants, would you be more inclined to undergo breast reconstruction using your own tissue?

4. Currently, the FDA does not recommend removing breast implants due to the very low risk of developing ALCL. Patients are recommended to continue routine follow-ups with their plastic surgeons to monitor for any signs or symptoms. Given the risks of ALCL and the FDA's recommendations, are you considering removing your implants?