

Polypropylene breast implants

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Polypropylene breast implants, also known as **string breast implants**, are a form of breast implant using polypropylene developed by Dr. Gerald W. Johnson. Due to a number of medical complications, the device has been banned in the European Union and United States.

Polypropylene implants absorb water very slowly, about <0.01% in 24 hours.^[1] The polypropylene, which is yarn-like, causes irritation to the implant pocket which causes the production of serum which fills the implant pocket on a continual basis. This causes continuous expansion of the breast after surgery. Growth can only be alleviated by removal of serum by syringe. Problems can also arise if the breasts enlarge at different rates. This can be corrected by removal of serum or introduction of sterile saline. Continual breast growth will eventually result in "extreme, almost cartoonish breast sizes."^[2]

String implants were only available for a very short time in the US before being removed from the market by the FDA around 2001.^[3]



Maxi Mounds, an adult entertainer with polypropylene breast implants



Women with polypropylene breast implants

Polypropylene implant have created the largest recorded increases in breast size due to surgical augmentation. They are rarely seen outside the adult entertainment industry. Big-bust entertainers Chelsea Charms, Maxi Mounds, Kayla Kleeveage, Minka and Teddi Barrett are some recipients of polypropylene breast implants.

References

1. "Polypropylene Specifications" (http://www.boedeker.com/polyp_p.htm). *boedeker.com*. Boedeker Plastics, Inc. Retrieved 27 January 2014. "GENERAL PROPERTIES. Polypropylene provides excellent resistance to organic solvents, degreasing agents and electrolytic attack. It has a lower impact strength, but its working temperatures and tensile strength are superior to low or high density polyethylene. It is light in weight, resistant to staining, and has a low moisture absorption rate. This is a tough, heat-resistant, semi-rigid material, ideal for the transfer of hot liquids or gases. It is recommended for vacuum systems and where higher heats and pressures are encountered. It has excellent resistance to acids and alkalines, but poor resistance to aromatic, aliphatic and chlorinated solvents. TYPICAL PROPERTIES of POLYPROPYLENE. Water Absorption, 24 hrs (%): Homopolymer <0.01; Co-Polymer 0.01; Flame Retardant 0.02"
2. "How Breast Implants Work" (<http://health.howstuffworks.com/breast-implant3.htm>). *How Stuff Works*. Retrieved 2007-05-08.
3. Johnson, Gerald W. "Letter from Dr Johnson in regard to String Implants dated February 2001" (<http://web.archive.org/web/20071016051259/http://xsurgeries.com/breasts/stringimplantletter.htm>). *ExtremeSurgeries.com*. Archived from the original (<http://xsurgeries.com/breasts/stringimplantletter.htm>) on 2007-10-

16. Retrieved 2007-09-15.

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