

I first got my implants put in just over 5yrs ago. I was in my late 20s and my husband and I researched the procedure and decided to do it to make me feel better about myself. I asked the surgeon if I could breast feed after having them and also if they would change. I was told yes to feeding with no change to the shape. I was even given photos as evidence. Breast feeding any future children was of most importance to me.

I now have a 3yo which I breast fed for 12mnths and a new born who I have had to stop feeding due to the pip implants. My breast shape did change with breastfeeding/pregnancy.

I only found out I had pips when my baby was a week old. I rang my surgeon's office to ask if my implants were PIP as I had heard the saga on the news. I was told that I did and I had not been contacted as I had moved addresses. I was advised to get an ultrasound and if ruptured to have them removed. I said that I didn't feel like they were ruptured. I was told not to hurry with the ultrasound then.

I decided to have an ultrasound on my breasts on 28/03/12 as I was booking in for My abdominal ultrasound anyway. My ultrasound report was both implants ruptured with right hand side silicone in lymph nodes. Left one was leaking. I went into panic and shock. My baby was under 10 weeks old and I immediately stopped breastfeeding as I couldn't bare even the thought of feeding him through potentially toxic and unknown substances in my breast. He already had enough health problems which may have been from PIPs and of course I blamed myself. I slipped into a state of depression as he did not take that well to the bottle and would cry to be breast fed. I constantly cried in front of my 3year old that put her into a state of anxiousness (which she is still recovering from) this all put strain on my marriage as you could imagine. My hair started to fall out from the stress. I feel as though I have been robbed from what should be the most precious time in a family's life. He was to be our last child and I will never get this time back.

My recent baby was born with fluid on his lungs, enlarged lymph nodes and cyst on his adrenal gland. I had a tougher pregnancy with him with a lot of pain on my right side ie pelvis, kidney, abdominal and headaches. He was born at 36.5wks. When he was around 5 wks old I was rushed to emergency in an ambulance again with unexplained right side pain.

I contacted 2 surgeons and chose the one who was most helpful and could get me into surgery the quickest. I was advised to get an MRI 9/4/12 and the report was they were both ruptured and no silicone in lymph node. I was booked in for surgery on 16th April (yesterday)

I requested to keep my implants after removal. The surgery apparently went well. The result was that one was ruptured and the other ruptured so much it was like mush and unable to be kept. I am extremely relieved the pips have been removed and grateful to the surgeon that got them out ASAP but the anxiety has not gone. I will always have in the back of my mind that the "mush" would have gone into my system, possibly harmed my child or both children and will it make me sick in the future or worse kill me so I am not around to care for my children, and that is too much to bare. There is no guarantee that all of the silicone particles were removed.

The physical/emotional recovery after surgery is particularly hard as can you could imagine how hard it is not being able to pick up and cuddle your baby when they desperately want you.

I am so angry that mine and my family's life and happiness has been somewhat ruined by greed and an oversight on something that should not happen in a country like Australia with supposed high standards. Myself, other women with PIP's and their friends and family have severely been let down.