

In some cases, patients decide they no longer want breast implants and choose to have them removed. Typical implant removal includes removal of the breast capsule as well. A breast capsule occurs with virtually every foreign object that is placed inside the body. It is a scar-like shell of collagen fibers that encases the object, and under normal circumstances is usually harmless. Sometimes the capsule can grow very thick and can tighten around the breast implant, causing the breast to feel very dense and possibly painful.

PROCEDURE: There are different techniques in removing implants and capsules. Traditional implant removal includes removing the breast implants as well as the capsule, which is removed in several pieces.

En Bloc implant removal is removal of the implant with the capsule attached in one piece. Typically, En Bloc removal takes longer in surgery. Some patients who choose En Bloc implant removal also request to have cultures and tests done, on the capsule or breast pocket, to determine if there are any bacteria present. These studies are usually done and sent to a hospital, which can result in additional costs of \$300 to \$4,500 or more to the patient.

RECOVERY: Drains will be placed for about two weeks. Patients should be able to resume normal activity two weeks after surgery.

COMPLICATIONS: Some potential complications and risks with surgery are infection, bleeding, delayed wound healing, wound dehiscence, infection, hematoma, seroma, asymmetry, unsatisfactory scarring, sensation alteration, loss of sensation, persistent pain, nerve changes, vascular and/or lymphatic changes.







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