

Inflation of your expandable breast implant

Breast Care Centre
Information for Patients

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What is an expandable implant?

As part of your breast reconstruction surgery you have an expandable implant. The aim of having this type of implant is to inflate the implant slowly to stretch the skin over a period of weeks until the reconstructed breast is the same size or slightly larger than your other breast.

When will the implant be inflated?

You will be seen in the breast care out-patients department to check your wound. Depending on how well your wound has healed, you will be given an appointment to attend the clinic so that expansion of your implant can be started. This will usually be about one month after your operation. This appointment can be with the doctor or Nurse Practitioner.

How is the implant inflated?

The doctor or nurse practitioner will explain the procedure to you. You will then be asked to lie in a position that is comfortable for you. A sterile solution of saline (salt water) will be injected slowly into the port (valve) of your expander. You should not find this painful but may feel a tightening sensation of the skin over the implant. A small dressing will be placed over the port following inflation. This can be removed the following day.

How often will I have the implant inflated?

You will be given an appointment on either a weekly or two weekly basis, depending on how comfortable you are following expansion.

The number of weeks that you need to attend will depend on the size of the implant and will be between three and six weeks. When your expandable implant is fully inflated your consultant surgeon will discuss with you any further procedures that may be needed.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

How do I contact the Breast Care Nurses?

We are available from Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm

Our office telephone number is **0116 250 2513**

An answerphone service is available, but messages will only be listened to during our working hours.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk