

Med Monthly

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Breast surgery

Dr. Becker helps women feel better about themselves

Do you iPad?

Why you should be using these gadgets in your practice

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Dr. Becker helps women look and feel their best

Breast surgery inventor and innovator

By Alice Osborn

Dr. Hilton Becker uses his passion and skills at breast reconstructive and plastic surgery to help patients when they are the most vulnerable: after mastectomies and after botched cosmetic operations. "Some of the most gratifying parts of my work are treating patients who have had complications with breast implants, multiple operations or previous breast problems where we can help them with our new advanced techniques and correct them in one operation." Dr. Becker's experience in reconstructive breast surgery greatly enhances his ability to perform cosmetic surgery of the breasts. "I combine my knowledge of reconstruction and cosmetics to benefit both populations," he states.

Originally from South Africa, and now practicing in Boca Raton, Florida at the Hilton Becker Clinic of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Becker is recognized both nationally and internationally as an expert in breast reconstructive surgery with over 25 years of experience in the field. He has lectured and taught surgeons all over the world and is extensively published on the subject of breast

surgeries and reconstruction of the breast.

The Becker Adjustable Breast Implant

After experiencing the emotional and physical toll breast cancer took on his patients early in his career, Dr. Becker was determined to help these patients who underwent mastectomies maintain their femininity and self-esteem following the loss of their natural breasts. He soon invented the Becker Adjustable Breast Implant in 1984. The implant enables the woman to have a one-stage reconstruction at the time of the mastectomy, which is also called primary reconstruction. How it works is that the double-lumen saline-gel implant is a combination tissue expander and a breast implant in one, so the implant can be stretched to stretch the breast tissue. The saline is in the inner chamber for tissue expansion and the gel is in the outer for a softer-feeling implant. Dr. Becker explains, "Once you've stretched and shaped the tissue sufficiently then the tissue expander is removed and the implant remains behind. The patient doesn't need to go back for a second operation as you do

when a traditional tissue expander is used. Now that the surgeons are doing less invasive mastectomies and saving more and more skin, this implant is getting more use."

The implant allows a woman to regain her confidence and figure immediately and achieve her desired results as the implant is shaped and sized when fluid is added through a port which is removed once healing has taken place. This one-stage reconstruction is suitable for a high percentage of patients and not only does the adjustable implant reduce scarring and surgery complications, the size and shape of the breasts can be modified through the implants. This is especially important if one breast has had radiation or another trauma. Besides reconstructive surgery, the Becker adjustable implant is useful for women who want an augmentation and a lift (here the volume can be fine-tuned and the breasts can be better shaped), for those who have asymmetrical breasts or who have had previous complications with implants.

The Scarless Breast Lift

Dr. Becker is the pioneer of the sub-areolar (circum-areolar) or scar-

less breast lift which he performs with the adjustable implant. The lift is done around the outer edge of the areola where the scar can be camouflaged. The areolar tissue is elevated and all of the tension is placed under the areola instead of on the skin so the scar doesn't stretch and is less noticeable than traditional techniques. The lift is enhanced with the use of the Internal Mesh Bra, which was first used in reconstructive surgeries.

Continuing his mission to help women have healthy breasts

Dr. Becker donates his time by lecturing about his highly sought-after surgical skills for physicians in South Florida and around the world. Dr.

Becker continues his mission to help breast cancer patients by performing free surgeries in Thailand, China, Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, Germany, and Panama as well as other countries. He has helped many patients who have had reconstructive surgery done overseas because it's cheaper and have later developed problems at home. Dr. Becker says, "Many times you don't stay overseas for three months and you can develop problems weeks or months after the surgery that you don't anticipate. The areas where we see the complications are with patients going overseas or patients running to the cheapest possible surgeon."

Visit beckerbreastimplants.com for more information about Dr. Becker and his practice.

DR. BECKER'S TIPS FOR CHOOSING A COSMETIC SURGEON:

- Be very careful about advertising because anyone can advertise that they're the greatest authority on earth. They need to be board certified in their specialty.
- Speak to other patients who have been treated by the surgeon you're seeking.
- View the surgeon's Before and After pictures.
- Research that the surgeon has treated complications.
- Do your due diligence and don't rush into surgery.
- Don't elect to get the cheapest surgery because it won't come with warranties for the implants, or guarantees to help with problems after the first few months and you may not get the best type of surgery for your condition.