



Breast Implant Illness

2024

Results of a patient survey using an online questionnaire after implant removal for breast implant illness

Ergebnisse einer Patientenbefragung mittels Online-Fragebogen nach Implantatentnahme bei Breast Implant Illness

Abstract

The use of silicone breast implants has a history of over 60 years. In recent years, specific health issues among implant wearers have repeatedly come into focus. The term “breast implant illness” has been circulating in scientific literature and on social media for several years. It describes a cluster of up to 60 different symptoms. The present results of an online survey conducted within a clinic’s patient population of the last 8 years show, among other things, the evolution of 8 reported symptoms before and after breast implant removal. In the comparison

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New article

- Who?
 - Dr. Ursula Tanzella
 - Chief physician at Park-Klinik Birkenwerder, the place of invention of the BEAULI protocol
- When?
 - Fresh of the press in 2024
- What?
 - Results of a patient survey using an online questionnaire after implant removal for breast implant illness
 - Data collected over 8 years from 103 patients



What is breast implant illness (BII)?

- Implants used for 60 years
- Discussion of breast implant illness (BII) has increased in recent years
- BII $\neq$ defined disease
- BII = collection of up to 60 symptoms in diverse combinations
 - fatigue, sleeping disorder, muscle complaints, joint pain, dry mucosa, concentration disorder, dizziness, paraesthesia
 - ...are the most common symptoms



Development of symptoms after implant removal

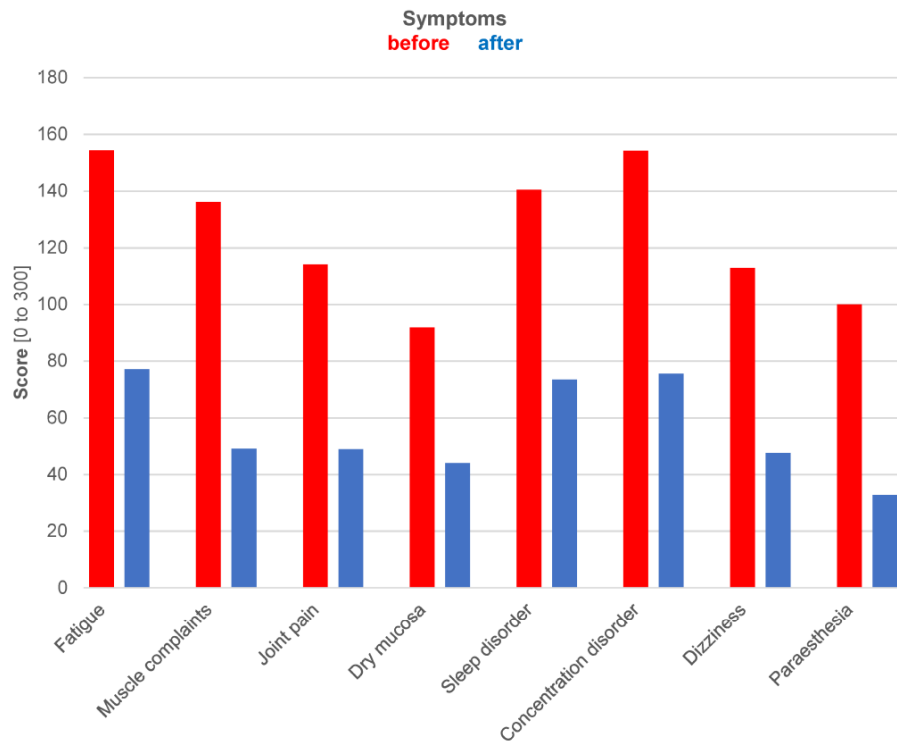
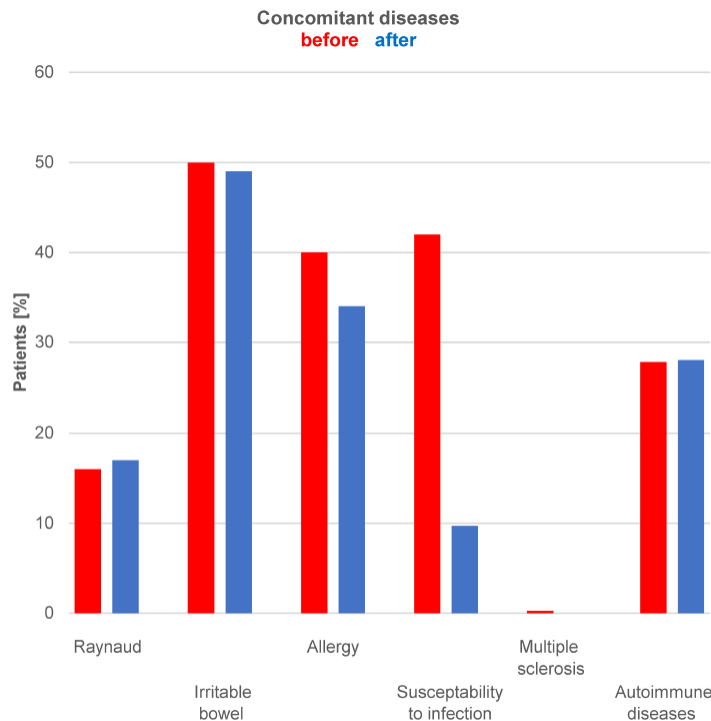


Figure 2: Development of symptoms in comparison: preoperative (in red) and postoperative (in blue), i.e., before and after implant removal

- All of the 8 most common symptoms of BII decreased by about 50% in their intensity after implant removal.
- A complete reduction to zero is not observed for any of the queried symptoms.



Development of comorbidities after implant removal



Development of comorbidities in comparison: preoperative (in red) and postoperative (in blue), i.e., before and after implant removal

- The susceptibility to allergies and infections decreased after implant removal.
- Other comorbidities remained the same.



What can we conclude?

- Results show a **correlation** between the removal of implants and the decrease in the surveyed symptoms.
- The shown results **may** reinforce the prevailing theory of the pathophysiology of breast implant illness, suggesting that the immune system exhibits an overreaction induced by the amount of silicone in the body.



What can we NOT conclude?

- The presented results **do not** show that silicone implants cause BII.
- The influence of psychological elements combined with the effects of social media on the mindset of the patients was **not** evaluated but may very well play a big role in the self-evaluation of the symptoms.



Why are those results relevant for you and Human Med?

- Patients experiencing BII want to get rid of their implants.
- The majority have no desire to get new implants.
- A reconstruction of their volume with autologous lipofilling according to the BEAULI™ protocol is their best option.
- Tissue harvest with WAL and a LipoCollector®/FillerCollector® will give them the best, most sustainable results.



Thank you!

