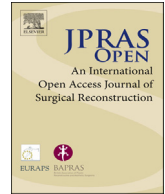




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Short Communication

Pre-pectoral breast reconstruction in a patient with prior cosmetic breast implants- an elegant modification of a previously described technique

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Background

The prevalence of cosmetic breast implants is rising, so it is not uncommon to see new breast cancers arising in individuals who already have breast implants.¹ Given their aesthetic concerns, and their previous choice to have breast implants, these patients frequently want to have an immediate implant based breast reconstruction if they require a mastectomy. This can be technically challenging as these individuals are generally slim with little autologous tissue cover² (Figures 1–3).

A standard implant based reconstruction in a ptotic breast uses an implant covered superiorly by the pectoralis muscle and inferiorly by a de-epithelialised dermal flap.³ There has been increasing interest recently in the use of pre-pectoral reconstruction to reduce morbidity from lifting the pectoralis muscle. This has been described with a prosthetic mesh (such as Braxon® manufactured by

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Figure 1. Pre-operative marking for a wise pattern reducing mastectomy.



Figure 2. Dermal sling sutured to existing implant capsule with the mastectomy skin flaps retracted.

Decomed, Venice, Italy) covering the entirety of the implant and being placed on top of the pectoralis muscle.⁴ We describe a novel muscle sparing technique where the existing sub-glandular implant capsule can be used for superior coverage of the implant.

Case history

A 61 year old patient with previous subglandular cosmetic implants was found to have 32 mm of microcalcification on the central part of her right breast on mammograms. This was confirmed to be high grade DCIS on subsequent biopsies. She was counselled for a skin reducing mastectomy and sentinel lymph node biopsy with immediate implant based reconstruction using a dermal sling for lower pole coverage.

Her mastectomy specimen weighed 158 grams and her final histology confirmed a 25 mm area of high grade DCIS with clear margins all around.

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