

TYPES OF SURGERY FOR BREAST CANCER

There are various options for surgically removing breast carcinoma these days: radical, modified radical or simple mastectomies, or conservative breast surgery. The latter include quadrantectomy, tumorectomy or segmental mastectomy.

CONSERVATIVE BREAST SURGERY

Nowadays, most breast cancer patients can undergo conservative breast surgery. The ratio of tumour size to overall mammary tissue plays a key role in determining whether conservative surgery is possible. In order to indicate the area of change in the mammary gland, the breast is roughly divided up into four quadrants. Most malignant tumours are found in the outer, upper quadrants, i.e. between collarbone and armpit. A **quadrant resection** removes both the tumour and – to be on the safe side – the tissue in that quadrant. This type of surgery does, however, frequently produce a cosmetic result that is less than ideal. A **tumorectomy** or **segmental mastectomy** removes the tumour and surrounding tissue to a “safe” distance of about two centimeters to healthy tissue. This safe distance around the tumour aims to include any cells that might have invaded the surrounding tissue. As a rule, some lymph nodes are also removed from the armpit during conservative breast surgery to enable exact diagnostics. The operation usually leaves only small, scarcely visible scars. Conservative breast therapy is often followed by radiotherapy.

When conservative surgery has taken place, SILIMA has two partial forms that compensate for minor loss of tissue volume:

Tumorectomy – **SILIMA Shell**

Quadrantectomy – **SILIMA Comform**

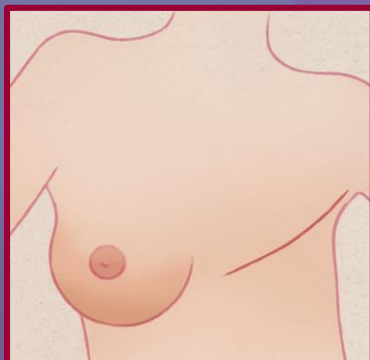
Please browse through www.blmed.co.za for further information about your breast form options

MASTECTOMY

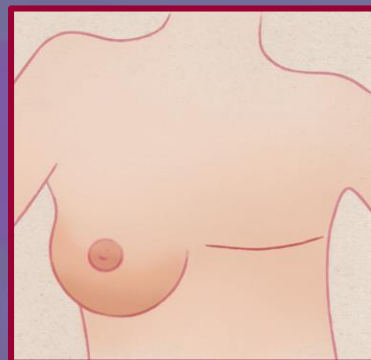
A **radical mastectomy** removes the entire mammary gland including the associated pectoral muscles and lymph nodes. The cut stretches from around the shoulder joint down to the abdomen. The chest usually takes on a very concave shape as a result. This radical approach to breast surgery was very common, especially in the 1970s.

Nowadays, **modified radical mastectomies** remove the entire mammary gland, together with the associated lymph nodes in the armpits. The pectoral muscles are left, or only removed if also tumour-ridden.

**Modified Radical
Mastectomy**



**Simple
Mastectomy**



A **simple mastectomy** removes the entire gland tissue but leaves the axillary lymph nodes.

SILIMA offers a comprehensive range of breast form styles to compensate complete loss of tissue volume. Immediately post-surgery, the **Silima® Fibrefil** is ideal as it is the best solution to the sensitive scar area, slow healing wounds and areas undergoing radiography.

Once healing has occurred, the **Silima® Light** or **Silima® Soft & Light** breast forms provide a natural breast feeling. The Soft & Light is available in Triform and Heart-shape to accommodate different breast shapes. For women who battle with trunkle Lymphoedema, the **Silima® Ultralight** has been designed to compensate for any volume changes which may occur from time to time.

Please Medical Orthotists & Prosthetists (MOP's) have been specially trained to assist patients with the correct fitting of breast forms and the appropriate bras that are needed, based on each patient's unique circumstances.

Check the **DISTRIBUTORS** tag on www.blmed.co.za **Home Page** for an Orthotist in your area who stocks and fits SILIMA Breast forms & lingerie. Feel free to browse through the site for further information about SILIMA Breast forms and Lingerie.

Information courtesy

SILIMA Professional Catalogue 2016/17

