

Prosthetics

After a mastectomy, a patient may or may not elect to have breast reconstruction. When a patient chooses not to have reconstructive surgery; they may elect to use a prosthetic device to provide symmetry to their body. External breast prosthesis is an artificial breast form that can be worn after a mastectomy. It helps balance the body and keeps the bra on the side of the mastectomy from riding up, which helps prevent back and neck pain and a sagging shoulder. They are made from several different types of material (such as silicone gel, foam, and fiberfill) that are of similar weight and feel to natural breast tissue.

Postsurgical soft-form camisole. A postsurgical (after surgery) camisole is made of a soft, stretchy material with lace elastic straps and is often worn immediately after a mastectomy, lumpectomy (removal of the tumor and some tissue around the tumor), radiation therapy to the chest, or reconstructive breast surgery. A lightweight, removable soft breast form can be placed into a pocket in the camisole. Most camisoles also come with drain holders as most women go home with them and return at a later time to have them removed. This item should be taking to the hospital with you to be used when you are discharged after your hospital stay.

External silicone breast prosthesis. This type of prosthesis is made of silicone and designed to model natural breast tissue. The prosthesis is designed to weigh the same as the natural breast to help prevent shoulder drop and poor balance.

Nonsilicone breast prosthesis. This prosthesis is a lightweight breast form made of foam or fiberfill and can be worn right after a mastectomy. It can also be worn during exercise, swimming, and in hot weather.

Partial breast prosthesis. Also called an equalizer or enhancer, this prosthesis is made of foam, fiberfill, or silicone. It's designed to be worn over a woman's own breast tissue to create a fuller appearance after a part of her breast is removed, such as with a lumpectomy. Many newer models have a 3-1 for women who are having reconstruction. It starts as a full prosthetic and becomes 3 different prosthetics for all the phases of reconstruction.

Being fitted for a prosthesis

After you have completely healed from surgery, which typically takes between four and eight weeks, you can be fitted for prosthesis. At Azer Medical Supply we carry prostheses, post mastectomy bras, swimsuits, and camisoles and we are

staffed by our certified fitter who is specially trained to fit women for breast prostheses.

Insurance Coverage

Some insurance carriers will cover the cost of the breast prosthesis and mastectomy bras, as long as you get a prescription from your doctor. Generally, Medicare and some insurance plans will pay for one silicone breast prosthesis every two years or one to two foam forms every six months and two to six mastectomy bras a year, although mastectomy bathing suits are usually not covered by insurance. Our Staff at Azer Medical Supply will help determine your benefit eligibility.

Choosing to wear breast prosthesis is a personal decision. Our certified Fitter is here to assist you in choosing the most comfortable and natural external breast prosthetic. Call us today for more details or to schedule an appointment with our fitter.