

## **BREAST IMPLANTS AND YOUR HEALTH**

**MAMMOGRAM-** Women with breast implants who are in an age group where routine mammograms are recommended should be sure to have these exams at the recommended intervals. You should also be aware that breast implants may interfere with the detection of cancer and that mammograms do not necessarily detect ruptures or leakage. You may be required to take extra views or even an ultrasound for a thorough evaluation of the breast tissue.

**SELF BREAST EXAM-** you should continue to do self-breast exams monthly exactly the same way you did before your breast implants.

**PREGNANCY AND BREAST FEEDING-** Breast implants should not interfere with breast-feeding. Although there is no way to predict whether a woman (with or without implants) will be able to do so. The increase in breast size may be very uncomfortable with pregnancy, and can lead to drooping and stretch marks, just like with any pregnancy.

**PROPHYLAXIS-** Although there is no conclusive proof, that it is beneficial, we recommend that anytime you have dental work, routine teeth cleaning, or invasive procedures you should pre-medicate against infection. It is known that even routine dental procedures dislodge bacteria into the bloodstream and that foreign objects (such as pacemakers, artificial joints and implants) are susceptible to seeding with the bacteria. Theoretically, once an infection is in the blood stream this may put the implant at risk of infection or increased hardening. Depending on your drug allergies, we recommend getting a prescription for Keflex, Penicillin, Amoxicillin, Erythromycin, etc. Depending on your doctor's drug of choice prior to your procedure.

**HISTORY-** Whenever you give a medical history, be sure to inform the doctor that you have breast implants. Also, be aware breast implants are not a lifetime device and cannot be expected to last forever. Some implants may deflate or rupture at anytime: yet others remain intact for 10 or more years after surgery.