

# TISSUE EXPANSION SYMPOSIUM

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## THE EXPANDER MAMMARY PROSTHESIS

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**T**he expander mammary prosthesis was designed to eliminate the need for replacing a temporary tissue expander with a breast implant following expansion of the chest wall tissues for breast constructions.

Radovan initially described the use of a temporary tissue expander to expand the remaining skin or skin and muscle following mastectomy. Once sufficient expansion had been achieved, the expander was removed and replaced with a silicone gel implant.

There are two problems with this procedure, however:

1. A second operation is required
2. It is necessary to accurately record the volume of saline added to the expander. And even if the implant size exactly equals the volume of saline added to the expander, it may not match the other breast once it has settled

into position, or if early contraction occurs.

It was therefore desirable to have an expander that did not have to be removed following expansion but could remain in position as the final implant.

The expander mammary prosthesis consists of a double lumen gel saline implant having a detachable injection dome. Saline is injected into the dome and then enters the inner lumen of the expander by way of a filling tube that connects to the injection dome.

At the completion of expansion, the injection dome and filling tube are removed through self-sealing valves on the implant. The implant itself remains in position, filled to the correct volume.

The expander mammary prosthesis has been used for over 7 years. Encouraging results have been obtained in a high percentage of

patients in the following situations:

1. Reconstruction following modified radical mastectomy.
2. Reconstruction at the time of mastectomy or subcutaneous mastectomy.
3. Reconstruction in combination with flaps.
4. Correction of complications following reconstruction.
5. Correction of congenital anomalies - Poland's syndrome tubular breast deformity, ptotic breasts.
6. Breast augmentation.

The values of a combination Expander - breast implant are numerous.

1. Eliminates the need to replace the expander with a second implant.
2. Intra operative overexpansion can be performed.
3. Post operative expansion and accurate volume adjustment can be carried out over an extended time period.