
NEW TEAR DROP SHAPED BREAST IMPLANT

- **ABOUT THE TEAR-DROP IMPLANT**

Dr. Hendricks: The tear-drop implant has been out for about three or four months. It's been used in preliminary studies in patients probably since 2000, and there have been four or five doctors around the United States that have been privileged to be able to use these. And their results go to the FDA for studies to document the safety, etc. Now, they are released for all plastic surgeons to use. They are very unique, and they have some great advantages.

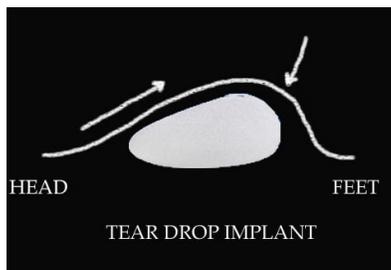
- **WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE TEAR DROP IMPLANT OVER THE TRADITIONAL BREAST IMPLANTS?**

Dr. Hendricks: The traditional breast implants is a round implant, the one that's typically used. The tear-drop shaped implant is shaped more like a wedge, you get less projection in the upper part of the implant, which is higher up on the chest. And then more projection, or more elevation of the breast toward the lower part of the breast. So what happens is you get that nice triangular shape of the beautiful aesthetic breast that we've all known. So it allows us, for the first time, to really use an implant and not just increase the volume of the breast, but also to shape the breast.

- **WHAT IS IT IN PARTICULAR THAT YOU REALLY LIKE ABOUT THIS IMPLANT?**

Dr. Hendricks: There are basically two types of patients that need augmentation or request augmentation. If somebody has never developed breast tissue, their skin may be very tight and not stretched out. They do well with either type of implant because they really need volume more than anything.

Women who would have an advantage, or this would be much more beneficial for it, are women who have a little bit of extra skin, say after breast feeding or after some weight loss, where there's some drop in the breast and the nipple and there is some relaxation of the skin. So again, in that situation, what you have is that extra, redundant skin that is hanging downward, and you need to stretch that skin



out so it doesn't look like the breast is hanging as much. You really need to push the lower part of the breast out, not the upper part. Again, putting in this implant will stretch the sagging skin and push the breast outwards. Then, the breast doesn't look like it's sagging as much anymore, and you get the appearance of a breast lift without actually having to have the incisions or the scars or the recovery from a breast lift.

- **WHAT IS THE BEST USE OF THE TEAR DROP IMPLANT?**

Dr. Hendricks: The best use of this implant is in patients that have a mild amount of droop. With significant amount of droop, say where the nipple has fallen to where it's below the level of the fold of the breast, then those patients are going to need a lift no matter what. But if somebody has just a little bit of droopiness of the skin, this implant is really perfect for that because it does take up the excess skin at the bottom of the breast. It pushes the breast and the nipple out and yet it doesn't give a lot of fullness at the top part of the breast. A traditional implant will give a lot of fullness up on the top and can even cause a little bump. And it doesn't really push out the bottom half very much. So you don't get the elevation in the bottom half with a traditional implant. This tear drop implant has really filled a place in plastic surgery that's helping to replace breast lifts for milder cases of breast droop.

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