

Plastic surgery: revision surgery for breast cancer

This leaflet explains what revision surgery is, and what options are available to you after your first reconstruction surgery. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What happens next?

You have had your reconstruction surgery and will soon be discharged from the hospital. You will have a follow-up appointment after one week, in the plastics dressing clinic, and you will see your consultant two weeks after you have been discharged.

You will still be under your consultant's care, and about three months after your initial surgery you may discuss whether revision surgery is necessary.

What is revision surgery and why would I need it?

Revision surgery can improve the symmetry of your breasts following reconstructive surgery. Having revision surgery will be a joint decision between you and your consultant, based on your personal choice and your clinical need. It is very common for patients to choose to have further surgery as this improves the appearance of your breasts.

What happens if I decide to have revision surgery?

Following your outpatient appointment, you will be added to the waiting list for surgery. As this is a routine procedure and not clinically urgent, there will be a wait for surgery. The plastic surgery admissions team can tell you how long the wait will be.

Is there a limit to the number of revisions I am allowed?

As revision surgery is a cosmetic procedure, there is a limit to how many procedures the NHS can offer each patient. Should your consultant feel it is appropriate, you can have up to two separate surgeries for breast symmetry and one nipple reconstruction procedure.

What if I feel I need further revision surgery?

If you require further surgery, an individual funding request (IFR) will need to be submitted by your GP. Please see our patient information leaflet, **Plastic Surgery: Individual Funding Requests (IFR)**, for further information about this.

Contact us

You can contact the Plastic Surgery Department, **t:** 020 7188 8882, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS website

Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing.

w: www.nhs.uk

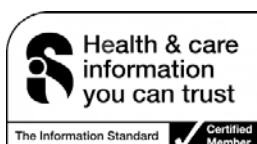
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t: 0800 731 0319 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

Was this leaflet useful?

We want to make sure the information you receive is helpful to you. If you have any comments about this leaflet, we would be happy to hear from you, fill in our simple online form, **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets, or **e:** patientinformationteam@gstt.nhs.uk



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