

Alternative for *Breast Reconstruction*

At Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin, our team of plastic surgeons is committed to providing women with every established alternative currently available in breast reconstruction. It is our practice philosophy that by combining artistry, sound surgical science and teamwork, we can provide the best possible outcome and most satisfying experience for our patients.

The DIEP Flap, or Deep Inferior Epigastric Perforator Flap, represents the current state of the art in breast reconstruction. The DIEP Flap is a microsurgical technique that involves precisely separating the skin, soft tissue and tiny blood vessels, or perforators, from the abdomen without removing any of the abdominal muscles. The blood vessels are matched to supplying vessels at the mastectomy site, and a new breast is formed. Three months later, a new nipple is reconstructed, and finally tattooing of the nipple completes the reconstruction. Leaving the abdominal muscles intact results in less post-operative pain, a shorter hospital stay and a quicker recovery.

Who is a candidate for the DIEP Flap?

Breast Reconstruction

Most commonly the DIEP Flap is used in breast reconstruction immediately following mastectomy for breast cancer. Increasingly, women who did not have breast reconstruction following a mastectomy are pursuing delayed breast reconstruction, or reconstruction years after their mastectomy.

While a mastectomy on only one breast is more common, bilateral mastectomies (removal of both breasts) are performed in many women. Often, as in the case of women with the BRCA gene mutation, prophylactic mastectomy (surgically removing the breasts before any sign of cancer) is performed bilaterally. These patients make ideal candidates for DIEP Flap breast reconstruction.

Breast Implant Problems

Women with problems related to breast implants also occasionally seek out breast reconstruction with their body's own tissue. These are often patients who have had breast implants placed for breast reconstruction following breast cancer treatment, or sometimes women having some problem with implants placed for cosmetic breast augmentation.

Congenital Breast Abnormalities

Congenital breast abnormalities, such as those encountered by patients with Poland's Syndrome, are also problems that can be treated with the DIEP Flap. Often a breast implant is placed during the late teenage years followed by removal of the implant and more definitive reconstruction with the patient's own tissue years later.

DIEP Flap Team — *Medical College of Wisconsin physicians*



John B. Hijjawi, MD

Education:

- Doctor of Medicine, University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA, 1997

Training:

- Residency, General Surgery, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA, 1997-2000
- Residency, Plastic Surgery, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA, 2001-2004

- Clinical Instructor, Plastic Surgery, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA, 2003-2004
- Special Fellow, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA, 2004-2005
- Fellowship, University of Ghent, Belgium, 2006-2007

Board Certifications:

- Plastic Surgery



John A. LoGiudice, MD

Education:

- Doctor of Medicine, Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL, USA, 2000

Training:

- Residency, Integrated Plastic Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin,

Milwaukee, WI, USA, 2000-2006

- Fellowship, Hand and Microsurgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA, 2006-2007

Board Certifications:

- Plastic Surgery



Robert M. Whitfield, MD

Education:

- Doctor of Medicine, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, NV, USA, 1996

Training:

- Residency, General Surgery, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN, USA, 1996-2002

- Residency, Plastic Surgery, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN, USA, 2002-2004
- Fellowship, Microsurgery, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, USA, 2004-2005

Board Certifications:

- General Surgery
- Plastic Surgery

Contact us

If you would like more information or would like to make an appointment with one of our plastic surgeons who perform DIEP Flap, visit froedtert.com/plastics or call one of our two convenient locations.

Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin
Plastic Surgery Center
8700 Watertown Plank Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226
Call 414-805-5440 to make an appointment

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Clinic located at the
Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Specialty
Clinics at St. Joseph's Hospital
3200 Pleasant Valley Road
West Bend, WI 53095
Call 262-836-7300 to make an appointment