



Does Breast Reduction Surgery Increase Breast Cancer Risk?

A patient scheduled for [Breast Reduction](#) Surgery recently asked me if her upcoming surgery would increase her risk of Breast Cancer due to the internal breast scarring that occurs as a result of the surgery. This question spurred a review of the medical literature (journals) and over 10 scientific articles related to this subject.

1. [Breast Reduction Surgery](#) reduces the volume of Breast Tissue that can cause Breast Cancer. As a result, the predicted risk of Breast Cancer in women who undergo the surgery can be reduced by as much as 50%. The benefits of Breast Reduction Surgery/Breast Cancer Risk Reduction, are significant for women over the age of 40, and even greater for those women over the age of 50. In addition, the larger the breast size prior to surgery, the lower the risk of breast cancer following Breast Reduction Surgery.
2. Only one study reported an increased risk of Breast Cancer in Breast Reduction Surgery patients and only those who had their surgery prior to age 20. Only a small number of patients under the age of 20 were included in this Danish study and none of the other 9 studies reported a similar finding.
3. Many of the scientific studies recommended follow-up mammograms at Imaging Centers that have Digital Mammography equipment with experienced Radiologists due to the post-operative radiographic changes that occur. Several other studies did not recommend pre-operative mammograms in women under the age of 35 due to the risk of false positive results and the subsequent unnecessary breast biopsies that followed.

I advised my patient of the results of these scientific studies and recommended that she proceed with her surgery as scheduled.

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