

Surgical options for breast reconstruction patients do not differ in their effect on patients' abilities to perform activities of daily living

Mastectomy patients considering breast reconstruction are faced with three surgical options: saline implants and two types of autogenous tissue reconstruction. However, little is known about the effects of these alternative procedures on physical functioning. In particular, concern has been voiced over possible stomach and back problems after autogenous tissue reconstruction, since these procedures transfer muscle from the patient's abdomen. Preliminary results from this study show that while autogenous tissue reconstruction may result in objectively measurable declines in the function of the stomach wall, these declines are not reflected in patients' subjective assessments of their abilities to perform activities of daily living. These findings, together with patients' evaluations of the aesthetic and psychosocial outcomes of surgery (currently being analyzed), will provide critical information to both physicians and patients in deciding which procedure to choose. *Wilkins EG, Lowery JC, Kuzon WM, Perkins AJ. Functional outcomes in post-mastectomy breast reconstruction: Preliminary results of the Michigan Breast Reconstruction Outcome Study. Surgical Forum. 1997; 48.* Contact: Ed Wilkins, MD, (734) 930-5100, e-mail at ewilkins@umich.edu.