

Breast Implant Illness (BII)

Breast Implant Illness is a condition that consists of a very broad range of non-specific symptoms such as hair loss, brain fog, general fatigue, fibromyalgia and other associated conditions such as ME, irritable bowel syndrome, various skin conditions and autoimmune conditions such as lupus, rheumatoid, SLE and Raynaud's.

Many of these patients have tried a range of strategies to overcome their ailments, including nutritional advice, changes in diet and a variety of lifestyle changes.

Most of them have reached the conclusion that their breast implants are responsible for their malaise and are requesting an explantation (removal of implants).

Though Breast Implant Illness has been recognised as a condition that affects some patients with breast implants there is currently a lack of good evidence that the breast implants are the cause.

The variety of generalised symptoms reported have made it difficult to ascertain the true features of the illness and so an objective diagnosis can be difficult. It is believed in some patients, the cause may be psychological rather than physical. Explantation appears to work for only 50% of patients.

Information taken from BAAPS (British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons)

Breast Implant Illness (BII)

If you'd like to find out how you can support QVH,
please visit www.supportqvh.org



Please ask if you
would like this leaflet
in larger print or a
different format.

Macmillan Breast Reconstruction Nurses BCN1407
Approved by the Patient Information Group
Issue 2 – Ref. No 0701
Print March 2022 – Review March 2025

© Copyright QVH NHS Foundation Trust
qvh.nhs.uk

