

## COMMON COMPLICATIONS

What are the most common local complications and adverse outcomes with breast implants?

The most common local complications and adverse outcomes associated with breast implants are capsular contracture, reoperation, implant removal, and rupture or deflation of the implant.

### Capsular Contracture

After your breast implant surgery, your breasts will begin to heal and adapt to the presence of the breast implants. A regular part of this process is that the breast tissue typically forms an internal scar immediately surrounding the implant. In many cases, this tissue forms a capsule that helps hold the implant in place. However, in some women, the scar tissue around the implant tightens and squeezes the implant. When scar tissue squeezes an implant, it is called capsular contracture.

Capsular contracture causes the breast to feel abnormally firm and can cause pain. There is a scale for describing the severity of the contracture. It is called the Baker Grading Scale. The grades are:

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
Contracture is observed, but the breast feels and looks normal (it is soft)	The breast is a little firm, but looks normal	The breast is firm and looks abnormal	The breast is hard, painful, and looks abnormal

