

Table 4. OPERATION CHOICES FOR BREAST RECONSTRUCTION

<p>Implant, also called fixed-volume implant Sack, filled with silicone gel or saline fluid, implanted under the skin and chest muscle. General or local anesthesia used. Can be outpatient or inpatient. Surgery takes 1 to 2 hours. Short recovery time. Low rate of complications.</p>	<p>Implants filled with silicone gel can be used only if a woman is enrolled in a clinical trial. Saline filled have silicone layer or envelope that contains filling.</p>
<p>Latissimus flap, also called back flap. Muscle called latissimus dorsi, and eye-shaped wedge of skin moved from back to chest wall and sewn in place, leaving tissue attached to original blood supply. Inpatient with general anesthesia. Surgery takes 2 to 4 hours.</p>	<p>May need blood transfusion. Major surgery that can be painful. Need to stay in hospital 3 to 6 days. Scar left on back or side. May have drain in for several weeks. May have fluid buildup in back area. May have slight bulge under arm that will shrink in time.</p>
<p>TRAM flap (transverse rectus abdominous myocutaneous), also called tummy tuck. Fat, skin and muscle taken from stomach area and moved up to form breast. Tissue usually</p>	<p>May need blood transfusion. Major surgery that can be painful. Hospital stay of several days. Recovery period may take several weeks, including inability of patient to stand straight for days or even weeks. Healing problems may occur, including thick tissue on flap. Scar in abdominal area.</p>