

Table 4. OPERATION CHOICES FOR BREAST RECONSTRUCTION

<p>remains connected to abdominal blood supply, although in some cases microsurgery used. Inpatient, with general anesthesia. Surgery takes 3 to 5 hours., with general anesthesia. Surgery takes 3 to 8 hours.</p>	
<p>Microsurgery, also called free flap. Muscle and fat from other parts of body, such as buttock or thigh, are cut free from blood supply, moved to breast and reattached to breast blood supply by microsurgery. Inpatient with general anesthesia. Surgery takes 3 to 8 hours.</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>
<p>Nipple Can be made from existing skin, pinched and tacked to make nipple, or created from tissue from other nipple or groin and attached to breast mound.</p>	<p>Areola reconstruction may also be done. May need tattoo to match color of other breast. If created from other nipple or groin, that area will feel tender for about 2 weeks.</p>