BREAST AUGMENTATION THROUGH FAT GRAFTING MADE MORE EFFECTIVE

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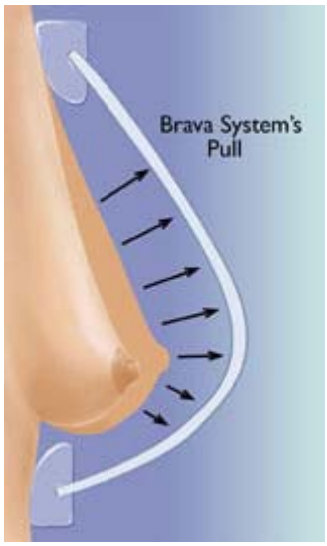

Fat grafting for breast augmentation is now claimed to be more effective through the use of a vacuum pressure device to expand the breasts over several weeks. Photo Credit: mybrava.com

February 20, 2010, (Sawf News) - Fat grafting for breast augmentation, as an alternative to the use of implants, is now claimed to be more effective using a technique developed by a Miami based plastic surgeon.

The technique, called the BRAVA system, was pioneered by Dr. Roger Khouri of the Miami Breast Center in Miami, Fla.

It involves the use of a vacuum pressure device to expand the breasts over several weeks. The expansion prompts the woman's body to enlarge the breast tissue - creating more space into which he then transfers large amounts of her own fat for the breast

augmentation procedure.

The BRAVA system also involves seeding fat in about a dozen points in each breast, rather than a single point.

"We're not trying to stuff or force a lot of stuff into a tight space; it's like putting seeds in a field," says Dr. Khouri. "You can stuff a lot into a small pot, and they're not going to grow. But if you take the seeds in that pot and stretch it into a large field, you're going to get growth."

The BRAVA system is yet to gain widespread acceptance since Plastic surgeons are averse to the use of any new technique until its safety and efficacy has been established through long term use and study.

To promote the use of the BRAVA system, Dr Khouri carried out a study on 50 women who had undergone the procedure and presented the results at the European Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ESPRAS) meeting in September.

One of the problems with traditional fat grafting is that some of the fat re-implanted is reabsorbed within a few months. Depending on the experience of the surgeon, the patient and some other factors in the body, 20 to 95 percent of transferred fat can be reabsorbed!

On an average 85% of the fat grafted survived in women in Dr Khouri's study group. Their augmentation averaged 210 ml per breast six months to a year out.

Fat grafting for breast augmentation is not recommended for all women. Besides being reabsorbed by the body, the grafted fat can lead to calcification that obscures breast cancer during mammograms.

Till recently fat grafting was frowned upon by the American Society for Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) which in 2007 issued a press release saying the procedure was not recommended due to lack of safety and efficacy data and potential problem with breast cancer detection.

The society revised its stance in January 2009 when it issued new guidelines that said:

"Based on available literature, complication rates associated with fat grafting are not, overall, unduly high. Risks and complications reported in the literature include infection, bleeding, fat embolism and graft volume loss; though, risks and complications of autologous fat grafting are not necessarily limited to these reports. Cases of severe complications and death appear to be extremely rare.

Fat grafting using the BRAVA system has other disadvantages when compared to implants. It can take several sittings over several months depending on the augmentation required. It is also likely to be twice as expensive.

Additional reading:
Breast augmentation using stem cell enriched fat grafting comes to the US
Stem cell enriched fat grafting for breast augmentation
Fat grafting for breast augmentation has limitations
Breast augmentation with 'fat grafting'

My BRAVA
http://www.mybrava.com/user-support-guide.asp

Miami Breast Center
http://www.miamibreastcenter.com/miami-breast-news-videos.html