This brochure provides useful information on Breast Implant Anaplastic-Associated Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL):

- What it is
- Symptoms
- Testing options
- Diagnosis
- Treatment

BIA-ALCL is a rare and highly treatable type of lymphoma that can develop around breast implants. BIA-ALCL occurs most frequently in patients who have breast implants with textured surfaces.

The current lifetime risk of BIA-ALCL is estimated to be 1:3817 - 1:30,000 women with textured implants based upon current confirmed cases and textured implant sales data over the past two decades. When caught early, BIA-ALCL is usually curable.
**BIA-ALCL Symptoms**

Common symptoms include breast enlargement, pain, asymmetry, lump in the breast or armpit, overlying skin rash, hardening of the breast, or a large fluid collection typically developing more than one year after receiving an implant.

**Have you developed symptoms?**

Women who develop these symptoms should see their physician to be evaluated with a physical exam and further testing. Patients with BIA-ALCL symptoms will receive an ultrasound or a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the symptomatic breast to evaluate for fluid or lumps around the implant and in the lymph nodes.

If fluid or a mass is found, patients will require a needle biopsy with drainage of the fluid to test for BIA-ALCL. This fluid will be tested for CD30 immune staining (CD30IHC) performed by a pathologist. Testing for CD30IHC is required to confirm a diagnosis or rule out BIA-ALCL. Fluid collections ruled out by CD30IHC for BIA-ALCL will be treated as typical seromas by a physician. Most insurance companies confirm coverage for both testing and treatment of BIA-ALCL, regardless of whether the patient received cosmetic or reconstructive implants; patients should review plans for their individual coverage. There is no testing or screening for women without symptoms.

**BIA-ALCL Diagnosis**

**Have you been diagnosed with BIA-ALCL?**

Receiving the diagnosis of BIA-ALCL may cause anxiety and frustration but women should know that not all cancers are equal. When caught early, BIA-ALCL is curable in most patients.

ASPS endorses BIA-ALCL guidelines established by the National Comprehensive Center Network (NCCN), which defines diagnosis and treatment based on proven methods to treat the disease.

**Treatment of BIA-ALCL**

When a woman is diagnosed with BIA-ALCL, her physician will refer her for a PET/CT scan to look for any disease that may have spread throughout the body. Any spread of the disease determines the stages, which is important for treatment.

For patients with BIA-ALCL only around the implant, surgery is performed to remove the breast implant and the scar capsule around the implant.

Patients with more advanced forms of BIA-ALCL may have disease in their lymph nodes, in their bones and/or organs. These patients require further treatment with chemotherapy.

**After Treatment**

Following removal of the disease, patients are commonly followed for two years with imaging tests in three- to six-month appointments. Disease re-occurrence is rare after surgical removal for early disease. The FDA recommends that all cases be reported to the ASPS PROFILE registry so that BIA-ALCL may be tracked and followed to better understand and prevent this rare disease.

**For further information, recommended BIA-ALCL resources are available:**

- The Plastic Surgery Foundation: [www.thepsf.org/PROFILE](http://www.thepsf.org/PROFILE)
- The American Society of Plastic Surgeons: [www.plasticsurgery.org/alcl](http://www.plasticsurgery.org/alcl)
- The US FDA: [https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/ImplantsandProsthesi](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/ImplantsandProsthesi)

**CONTACT US**

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