General Risks of Surgery

Anaesthetic risks
Discomfort / pain – acute/chronic
Bruising / Haematoma (requiring return to theatre)
Infection
Wound Healing (impaired, delayed)
DVT/PE

Specific Risks for Standard Breast Procedures

- Breast Biopsy/Wide Local Excision
  Scars
  Deformity/Asymmetry
  Need for further surgery
  Impact of future radiotherapy

- Localised Wide Local Excision
  As for WLE
  Use of Isotope (safety and half-life explanation)

- Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy & Ax Node Sampling
  Impaired arm/shoulder movement
  ICBn damage
  Lymphoedema
  Seroma
  Blue Dye allergy/anaphylaxis (quote %)
  Possible need for further surgery (clearance)

- Axillary Node Clearance
  Impaired arm/shoulder movement
  ICBn damage
  Lymphoedema
  Use of Drains
  Seroma

- Mastectomy
  Scars
  Deformity
  Dog-ears
  Wound healing problems
  Impact of radiotherapy
  Use of Drains
  Seroma
Specific Risks for Oncoplastic & Reconstructive Procedures

- **For all procedures:**
  - Type and extent of scars
  - "...unable to guarantee symmetry of shape, volume"
  - "...unable to guarantee will not require further surgery"

- **WLE with Breast Reshaping (volume displacement)**
  - Palpable irregularity of repaired gland
  - Type and extent of scars
  - Skin envelope necrosis
  - Fat necrosis
  - Need for further surgery
  - Unpredictable effects of XRT

- **Therapeutic Mastopexy/Mammaplasty**
  - Type and extent of scars
  - Skin envelope necrosis
  - Fat necrosis
  - Sub-optimal healing (T-junction breakdown)
  - Need for re-excision/mastectomy
  - Unpredictable effects of XRT

- **Skin Sparing Mastectomy (immediate reconstruction)**
  - Skin envelope necrosis (smokers, low BMI)

- **One Stage Expander/ Implant**
  - Implant palpability, rippling, rotation
  - Deep implant infection requiring explantation for 3 months
  - Capsular contracture
  - Inflation port – palpability, position, malfunction

- **Two-stage Expander then Implant**
  - As for one stage but need for hyper-expansion
  - Need for second op understood
**RISKS & COMPLICATIONS OF ONCOPLASTIC BREAST SURGERY**

- **Latissimus Dorsi (autologous)**
  
  **Donor site morbidity:**
  - Extent of scar
  - Back contour uneven (fat harvest)
  - Skin necrosis
  - Reduced shoulder strength and function
  - Persistent seroma

  **Flap:**
  - Partial or full flap failure (<2%)
  - Twitching of flap
  - Flap atrophy (volume loss)
  - Fat necrosis (lumpiness, vol loss)

- **Latissimus Dorsi (with implant)**
  
  As for autologous LD but with additional implant risks:

  palpability, rippling, rotation, deep implant infection requiring explantation for 3 months, capsular contracture.

- **Pedicled TRAM Flap**
  
  **Donor site morbidity:**
  - Extent of scar
  - Wound healing problems incl dehissence
  - Reduced abdominal wall strength and function
  - Mesh repair – bulge, risk of incis hernia

  **Flap:**
  - Partial or full flap failure (~ 5%) 
  - Flap atrophy (volume loss)
  - Fat necrosis (lumpiness, vol loss)

- **Nipple Reconstruction**
  
  - Partial necrosis (<5%)
  - Full necrosis – nipple loss (<1%)
  - Loss of projection over time
RISKS & COMPLICATIONS OF ONCOPLASTIC BREAST SURGERY

• Breast Augmentation (primary)

  Functional:
  
  Sensation changes (Increased 30%, Reduced 30%)
  ? Impaired ability to breast feeding
  ? Impaired sensitivity of mammography

  Aesthetic
  
  Accentuation of underlying asymmetry
  Rotation, edge palpability, “rippling”, “bottoming out”
  Capsular contracture
  Need for revisional surgery

  The Implants:
  
  Low rupture risk

• Revisional Implant Surgery (capsulotomy, ‘ectomy, ‘orraphy)

  As for implants plus
  Recurrent Capsule formation
  More likely to bleed - increased risk of haematoma (drain more likely)

• Reduction Mammaplasty

  Surgical:
  
  Extent of scars
  Impaired wound healing (T-junction)
  Nipple Loss (partial/full)
  Fat necrosis

  Functional:
  
  Nipple Sensation changes (Reduced 30-50%)
  ? Impaired ability to breast feeding

  Aesthetic
  
  Changes over time: Breast regrowth with weight gain
  “bottoming out”
  Need for revisional surgery
RISKS & COMPLICATIONS OF ONCOPLASTIC BREAST SURGERY

- Lipomodelling/ Fat Grafting

  **Donor Site:**
  - Bruising/Haematoma
  - Discomfort – acute/chronic
  - Numbness
  - Uneven contours
  - Ridges
  - Inadvertant Internal Injury (theoretical only)

  **Recipient Breast:**
  - Infection
  - Swelling
  - Bruising
  - Lumpiness / Fat necrosis/ Cyst Formation
  - Uneven contours
  - If previous cancer (theoretical risk of increased local recurrence – unproven in largest European Centre Series – Lyon, Milan)
  - Changes to future mammography (theoretical increased need for further biopsies – not proven)

**Note:**

This information is for general guidance only and represents the views and opinions of Mr Iain M Brown Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon. It should in no way be regarded as either definitive or representing the views of any other surgeon, doctor or institution.