

M.M. Van Benschoten, O.M.D, CA, Inc.

Silicone Breast Implant Disease

Patients suffering from the toxic effects of silicone breast implants may have various disorders of immune function, including arthritis, lupus, Sjogren's syndrome, or chronic fatigue syndrome. Multiple bacterial, viral, and fungal infections secondary to silicone toxicity cause autoimmune responses that result in muscle and joint pain, dry eyes, and neurological problems. SPECT scans of the brain of these patients will show abnormal perfusion of temporal, frontal, and occipital lobes. Sleep disturbances, anxiety, depression, hormonal imbalances, and recurrent infections can often be traced to the migration of silicone residues through the breast tissue, lymphatic system, silicone in lungs, and nervous system. Treatment focuses on clearance of infections, regulation of immune function, reduction of fibrosis, and neutralization of silicone residues by Chinese herbal medicines. Acupuncture is generally contraindicated for patients with silicone toxicity related autoimmune responses.

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