



WATERFRONT

PRIVATE HOSPITAL

BREAST AUGMENTATION AFTERCARE

The advice below is general and will apply to the average patient. It should be used as a guide. All patients are different, and some will recover quicker than others.

Before you leave the hospital

Medications – You will be provided with painkillers before discharge. These will usually include strong painkillers such as dihydrocodeine.

Follow-up appointments for dressing clinics – You will be handed a card with details of your first follow-up appointment and contact details for the ward if you have any concerns once you get home.

Have someone to take you home and a **responsible adult with you for the first night**.

Information on post-surgical bras

A well-fitting bra made of soft fabric can provide support and comfort during the first few months following breast augmentation.

Before the surgical wound closure, the surgeon makes sure the implants are a snug fit within the surgically created pockets. So bras are not initially needed to maintain implant position and **are for support and comfort only**.

Surgical bras can help maintain the position of your implants during the healing process over the first 6 months.



If you do not have a bra in the hospital, you can buy one after discharge. Usually, your nurse will help you put the bra on before you are discharged home. There is no immediate rush, as your dressings will provide some support meanwhile.

The bra may stay on as long as it feels comfortable and supportive. It need not be worn religiously 24/7 and should be worn for at least 3 months after surgery (preferably 6 months).

Your surgical bra should fulfil these criteria:

- **No underwiring**
- **Seam-free or the seam should be outward-facing**
- **Should have adjustable frontal closure. Please avoid bras that need to be pulled over the head**
- **Should have adjustable straps.**
- **Should not put pressure on or dig into the breast crease**

Sometimes, extra reinforcement below the cup can give additional support.

Good quality surgical bras are available in most department stores (M&S, Tesco, Asda).

Recommended specialist post-surgical bras can be purchased online by following the links below:

[Macom signature compression bra](#)

[Lipoelastic PI Ideal](#)

[Lipoelastic PI relax](#)

Use discount code QUABA (we are not affiliated with either brand)

The only measurement required is the high street band size (under bust measurement – e.g., 28,30,32,34,36 etc.). **The cup sizes of these bras are expandable, and the bra moulds to your new cup size.**

When you get home

Week 1

Get plenty of rest.

Sleep in whichever position is comfortable (likely to be on your back), and keep your support bra on at night.

You can shower but try not to soak your dressings too much. Do not worry if the outer dressing comes off. You will still have paper tape (steri-strips) over the wounds, and you can get these wet. They will generally stay stuck on your incisions.

Discomfort and Pain are typical in the first few days after surgery, especially if your implants have been placed under the muscle. You may experience some numbness around your nipples and incision areas. You may experience temporary soreness, tightness, swelling and bruising, and discomfort in the incision area. Your breasts may be sensitive to stimulation for a few weeks.

It is not unusual for one side to feel different or more painful than the other. If your breasts are roughly the same size, then there is no reason to be concerned.

Take your pain medication as prescribed.

A little **blood staining** on the inside of your dressings is not unusual during the first week.

Your **mood** may fluctuate after surgery – this is normal!

Your breasts will feel **tight and swollen** for several days, and **bruising** is not uncommon. This will settle gradually over the first 1-2 weeks.

Walk as soon as possible; this helps to reduce swelling and lowers the chance of blood clots.

Follow a balanced diet. Increase fluid intake. Decreased activity may promote constipation, so you may wish to add more raw fruit and fibre to your diet.

Avoid smoking for at least two weeks, as smoking delays healing and increases the risk of complications.

Avoid alcohol when taking pain medications. Even if you are not taking pain medications, it is advisable to avoid alcohol for three weeks as it can cause fluid retention, which may worsen swelling.

You can consider **driving** if you must towards the end of the first week if you are not taking strong painkillers and are confident performing an emergency break.

Nurse appointment at the end of week 1

You will have a nurse appointment to **remove the outer dressings** at the end of week 1. The nurses will check that you are OK and have no problems. They can answer any questions.

The **paper tape (steri-strips)** covering the incisions **will generally be left on, and you can continue to shower with these on.**

Returning to work

Return to work may be an option at the start of week two if your job is office-based/non-physical. If your job is more physical, you may need to wait until the end of week 2 before returning to work.

Week 2

Most patients will still take painkillers by the start of week 2, but some may feel they no longer require any medication. **Pain** should be better during the day.

Any severe tightness should be easing off, but there will still be some swelling, which can take another few weeks to settle.

You may still have a little bruising.

You should be fine **going about your day-to-day business**.

Please remember to remove your paper tape (steri-strips) by the end of week 2. If the tape is stuck, you can coat it with Vaseline and wait for half an hour before removing it.

Weeks 3 and 4

Moisturise your incisions with a plain moisturising cream (Aveeno, E45) or bio-oil.

You will feel more yourself, and most of the swelling (80-90%) will have settled.

You may feel **shooting-type pains** as nerves knit back together.

When can I fly after surgery?

Check with your airline and insurance company before flying. It'll depend on your airline's regulations and the flight duration. If in doubt, please ask your surgeon.

Risk of DVT

If you're flying after recent surgery, especially when your mobility has been restricted, you're at an increased risk of [deep vein thrombosis \(DVT\)](#), a blood clot in one of the deep veins in your body, usually in your legs.

Guidance

For medium-haul, (3-6 hours) and long-haul (6-12 hours) and as a guide, allow 2 weeks after breast augmentation surgery. You could fly around 1 week after surgery for short haul (less than 3 hours) flights. You can take steps to reduce your risk of DVT, such as drinking plenty of water, using your Ted stockings, and moving around on the plane. The risk of developing a travel-related DVT is low, even if you're classed as moderate to high risk.

Travel Insurance

Check your travel insurance policy carefully, as you may need to inform the insurance company you have recently had surgery.

Weeks 5 and 6

After 1 month (beginning of week 5), you can cover your scars with micropore tape (Micropore 3M), which can be purchased from most pharmacies. **You can shower with the tape on.**

Scar care

Apply the micropore tape for 3-5 days, then remove it and **moisturise** the wounds with a plain moisturiser. **Leave exposed for 1-2 days**, reapply the tape for another 3-5 days, and keep repeating the moisturise/ tape cycle for at least 4 months.

Tape - 3-5 days

Moisturise - 1-2 days

Tape 3-5 days

Moisturise 1-2 days

Keep repeating for 4 months.

If the micropore tape causes irritation – stop using it and moisturise only instead.

Exercise

You can resume gentle exercise after 4 weeks and build up to more strenuous exercise by the end of week 6.

It is best to avoid any heavy upper-body pectoral work for the first 6 months (especially if your implants are under the muscle)

From 6 weeks to 6 months

The last 10% of the swelling will settle over this period. Your breasts will feel more natural, and your implants will settle into their final position.

Scars should fade but can still be red at 6 months. Please **continue alternating between moisturising and taping your scars.**

Shooting pains and other pains may persist as nerves heal or after exercise. This is normal.

Any **Numbness** should gradually improve over this period.

When to call/ get in touch

- If you have increased swelling or bruising, which is not settling.
- If you notice swelling in one/ both of your legs or feel short of breath – this may indicate a clot in one of your veins/ lungs – Deep vein thrombosis/ Pulmonary embolism.
- If one breast is much more swollen than the other.
- If you have increased redness along the incision (this may be a sign of infection).
- If you have severe or increased pain not relieved by medication.
- If you have any side effects to medications, such as rash, nausea, headache, or vomiting.
- If you have a temperature over 38 degrees Celsius.
- If you have any **persistent** yellowish or greenish discharge from the incisions.

Further advice

If you are uncertain about anything or require further advice, please contact us at hello@waterfronthospital.co.uk