

Carmella's Story

Age 44, Immediate Breast Implant Reconstruction with AlloDerm® Regenerative Tissue Matrix

"When I learned that I had breast cancer, I was shocked. I really did not know anybody at the time who had breast cancer, and I really didn't know what my options were. I thought that a double mastectomy was the best option because being a younger woman and a single woman, I really was concerned about my look, my physical look and having a full life still ahead of me, I really gave a lot of thought to what it was – how I felt about my body and how I wanted to look for the rest of my life.

My plastic surgeon told me about the different reconstruction options, whether I wanted a flap, using other parts of the body to develop the breast or to use silicone implants. I was pleasantly surprised after coming out of the anesthesia to find that although I had a part of me that was taken away, I had a new part of me that is very pleased to have – I didn't suffer that sense of loss that you fear going into the surgery ahead of time.

Breast reconstruction has allowed me to just be more of myself. I felt very comfortable going out in public and wearing the clothes that I normally wear. Sometimes wearing, you know, probably a little bit less than I normally wear to show of my, you know, new additions, which I'm very pleased with. It's not something that I think about anymore. I'm not self conscious about it, and I'm not insecure, but I feel very confident about a part of my body that is a large part of me being a woman.

If I had somebody approach me about breast reconstruction, I would tell her to make her own choices that are best for her, first of all. Everybody is different and everybody has different needs. They're at different stages in their life.

I have moved along in this path where each stage there has been a new part of the reconstruction, and it's been an interesting process because each stage you grow. I've grown to really accept the process and my new breasts as a part of me. And I'm almost at the end of that process, and it's been a fantastic experience because I'm more and more pleased as the process evolves."

Important Information: Every patient is different and their reconstruction options and their results may vary. All depictions on the site are for illustration purposes only. Whether or not you have breast reconstruction is a decision you need to make in consultation with your physician. Only you and your physician can determine the best option for you. Please ask your doctor to explain the benefits and risk of various reconstruction options and whether they are right for you.

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