

Jennifer's Story

Age 47, Delayed Breast Implant Reconstruction with AlloDerm® Regenerative Tissue Matrix

"I first learned I had breast cancer at a routine mammogram. I had gone very frequently since the age of 35 because of my history. And on a routine visit, they found something they didn't like, and after biopsy I was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer.

I decided to have a double mastectomy. I could have had a lumpectomy, but given my history, given all that I thought about for such a long time, it was in the best interest for me to have a double mastectomy, and my surgeon was extremely supportive of that.

My mother had breast cancer. My aunt died of breast cancer and my cousin was a two-time cancer survivor. I always felt like I was going to get it.

The prospect of losing both of my breasts was scary. It was intimidating, but I also knew that it was the best thing for me. I was – believe me, I went through some real sad feelings, some real grieving process in that time period.

The possibility of breast reconstruction did come right up at my surgeon's office. I decided to wait. I had a delayed breast reconstruction. My plastic surgeon suggested breast implant reconstruction with AlloDerm® for my reconstruction. I feel happier. I feel complete. I feel content and I feel like I felt before I had the mastectomy.

If I were to meet a woman today facing a mastectomy, I would tell them to please talk to their doctor. Talk to their breast surgeon about all the reconstruction possibilities. Women sometimes are – don't know what to ask because they don't know what their options are. Talk to other women. Ask them what have they done? What did they feel good about? What was best for them?

Immediate reconstruction is a wonderful option, but it's not the only option. And I want people to understand that delayed reconstruction is available. It's done well and it might be the perfect fit for some women who are facing mastectomy."

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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