



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

BIA-ALCL Physician Resources

BIA-ALCL Resources

Sample Letter To Patients

This downloadable sample letter is provided by ASPS as an optional resource to members to assist in discussions with patients or for those who choose to contact patients with additional information about breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL).

[Download Sample Letter](#) 

Sample Letter

Dear [Patient Name],

You may have heard recent media reports regarding textured breast implants and an uncommon form of cancer called breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL). In July, the breast implant manufacturer Allergan issued a voluntary recall of its Biocell textured breast implants and tissue expanders from the market.

BIA-ALCL is not breast cancer. It is an uncommon-but-treatable type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that can develop around breast implants. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of BIA-ALCL in women who have had only "smooth surface" breast implants or tissue expanders.

Due to the low risk of developing BIA-ALCL, the FDA does NOT recommend for women with textured breast implants to have them removed unless they are experiencing symptoms. The most common symptom is a collection of fluid around the implant or swelling, but symptoms may also include pain, a lump in the breast or lymph node in the armpit, rash, fever, weight-loss or unexpected changes in breast shape, including asymmetry.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, I encourage you to contact my office. I will perform an evaluation and order the appropriate tests to determine if any treatment is indicated. Your health and safety will always be my top priority.

Women who develop BIA-ALCL are usually cured by removing the implant and the scar tissue surrounding it. Some patients may require additional treatment (such as radiation or chemotherapy).

For additional information about BIA-ALCL, the website of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (PlasticSurgery.org/ALCL) offers a great deal of information for patients. Of course, I will also make myself available to personally answer any of your questions and concerns.

I appreciate the trust you placed in me when you selected me to be your plastic surgeon. Rest assured that I will continue to monitor any developments, and I will keep you informed of any new information.

Sincerely,

[NAME OF PLASTIC SURGEON]

BIA-ALCL RESOURCES

- ▶ [BIA-ALCL Summary and Quick Facts \(08/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [BIA-ALCL By The Numbers \(08/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [Allergan Announces Worldwide Recall of Biocell Textured Implants \(07/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [BIA-ALCL Sample Letter To Patients \(07/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [BIA-ALCL Safety Advisory \(06/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [Free Educational Brochure: What Patients Need to Know \(03/2018\)](#)
- ▶ [ASPS Literature on BIA-ALCL](#)
- ▶ [ASPS Recommended Insurance Coverage Criteria for Third-Party Payers](#)
- ▶ [BIA-ALCL NCCN Guidelines \(Free Registration\)](#)
- ▶ [Free CME Class on BIA-ALCL](#)
- ▶ [Informed Consent Language \(02/2019\)](#)
- ▶ [PRS BIA-ALCL Supplement](#)
- ▶ [BIA-ALCL Patient Resources](#)

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