

My name is Jodie Blake I am 39 years old and I am a Mother of four children, I am a victim of PIP Implants (Poly Implant Prostheses). I have been unknowingly walking around with this Industrial silicone inside my body for almost four years. In that time I have had a range of symptoms that neither I nor doctors could explain.

I have suffered :

Breast pain ,shoulder blade pain, neck pain, arm pain,
joint muscle pain, ovary pain, Chest pain.

Short term memory loss.

Swelling, fluid retention, Inflammation

Breathing issues/shortness of breath

Excessive hair loss, dry hair and skin problems, rashes allergies, sensitive to heat and cold.

Low blood pressure, low blood sugar, dizziness/seeing stars

vision issues, sensitive to light and sound, ringing in ears

Anxiety depression, hormone issues, dead limbs in sleep. Chronic fatigue.

Rupture related: swollen enlarged breast, lumpy breast. Burning sensation. Excessive stretching which in turn has disfigured my breast.

Recurring chronic abdominal pain and bowel problems, which I was hospitalised for requiring intravenous antibiotics to clear infection and anti-reflux medication and morphine for the pain. Subsequently I had many tests that came back inconclusive, they couldn't pinpoint where it was coming from. I didn't know at the time I had a ruptured implant.

In this time I also fell pregnant and gave birth to my baby girl and then went on to breastfeed her. This is where I feel the most upset with the TGA and surgeons alike. I gave birth to my daughter in June 2010. The TGA were well aware of the situation with PIP implants way before this and I was not contacted in any way, shape or form. In fact I have not been contacted by anyone yet. I heard about the whole PIP scandal on the media. My baby was under the care of a specialist the whole time I breastfed her as she kept vomiting and the specialist could not figure out why as none of the strongest anti-reflux medications would help her. It wasn't until at 10 months of age when I stopped breast feeding her all together that she stopped being sick. Luckily I supplemented her feeds with formula, as she would have had failure to thrive, but in saying that I worked around the clock to do this.

When I called my surgeon to ask them about my implants, as I had a small card stating that I indeed had PIP implants, they denied ever using them at their clinic. It was after much arguing with them that they agreed that I did in fact have these implants in my body as I had the Identification card in my hand. I wonder how many women they have said this to and who are unknowingly walking around with ruptured PIP implants in their bodies, or worse still breastfeeding their little babies with these unknown toxins? This could be disastrous..

I have been so tired most days I felt what I could only imagine what a cancer patient feels like, unable to go grocery shopping without having to come home and have a sleep. Everyday chores seem like mountainous tasks. Constantly have dark circles under my eyes. I have been unable to sustain a job. It has been extremely hard to run the household and I have found it very difficult to sustain close relationships because of my moods.

When I finally found out I had PIP implants in December 2011, I had to organise my own scan and then found out I had a rupture so then was advised to go on to have an MRI, which at the time was not covered by Medicare.

I have now had to undergo two further surgeries to fix the damage that the PIP implants have done to my breasts and still my breasts look disfigured. I will need further surgery in the future eventually because of the damage. Not to mention the money I have spent travelling to doctors as well as on these surgeries.

I cannot overstate the impact that this has had on both me and on my family. My young children have had to miss out on weeks of school because of my illnesses, appointments with doctors and surgeries. They too have suffered extreme anxiety thinking that something horrible is going to become of me or their little baby sister. My eldest daughter has gone from getting almost straight 'A's on her report card to this last term getting "C"s and "D"s. My middle daughter who normally is very well behaved has started having behavioural issues at school. My son has suffered extreme anxiety and his motor tics have returned. I have struggled to take care of my little baby through all of this.

Daily my mind is on what could happen to my baby as there is no real evidence either way as to what is in each of these implants and my baby fed from my breast.

If my baby was to ever become ill in the future, how could I ever know if the PIP implants were the cause or not? My immediate reaction would firstly to blame myself for feeding her with that Industrial silicone inside of me, and then logic would kick in and I would realise that I had no idea that they were Industrial silicone nor were they ruptured when I fed her back in June 2010. Although, I will now forever, whenever she becomes sick go into panic mode thinking something awful is wrong because I breastfed her Industrial silicone. I will forever be on tenterhooks, looking out for my baby girl and her health.

Four years of my life already gone and who knows what the future holds? I can only hope that my physical health keeps on improving. My hair has already started to grow back and my energy is returning. Sometime in the future I hope I can look forward to going back to work and putting this in my past.

The government needs to put rules in place where Plastic and cosmetic surgeons must keep a data base of all patients and keep it up to date as possible and keep them informed with all updates from a governing body i.e. recalls as they happen from the TGA.

It's quite a poor situation where in Australia, not a third world country; we are finding out about an inferior product some 18 months after the fact via the media rather than from our surgeons or the TGA themselves. It comes across rather cunning actually, almost like someone has things to hide.

I find myself to this day unable to trust the doctors behind the investigation of the PIP implants or the TGA as I and many other women in Australia are living proof that there is NOTHING safe about PIP implants. All PIP implants need to be removed now, and the government needs to act on helping those who are still walking around with this poison inside of them and not to forget those of us who have already had to beg and borrow to come up with the money already to have them removed.

