

## New Adjustable breast implants for patients

Breast augmentation news :Adjustable breast implants for patients

(New York-WABC, April 12, 2007) - A new

procedure is helping women get the breast size they want. It allows them to adjust the size after surgery. Seven's On Call. Right now, more than two million women in the United States are living with breast cancer. Many of these women have had major surgery to remove parts or all of their breasts. Now, a new twist on breast implants can have them looking and feeling better than ever. Janet Horn gambles for fun with her family. But when she was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, this mother of two didn't take any chances. "I opted to have a skin-sparing bilateral mastectomy," she said. And when the surgery was over, Janet wanted to feel like herself again. "You know at 38-years-old, I wanted my life back, and not even for the vanity, but just to feel like a woman," she said. So she opted for this -- and adjustable breast implant. Plastic surgeon Hilton Becker invented the procedure. "They can look at their breast and say 'Yes this is fine,' or they can do an adjustment," Dr. Becker said. A deflated implant is placed in the breast and attached to a port. After surgery, the doctor can add saline through the port to make the implant bigger -- then take some away to make it smaller -- all without another procedure. "When we tell the patient, 'You're done, you don't need any more surgery,' they're totally delighted," Dr. Becker said. Once the patient is satisfied, the port is removed. Women who've had a mastectomy are the best candidates because the implants let the skin stretch slowly -- allowing for better healing. But they can also be used for cosmetic purposes. "It was the best part of the worst experience of someone's life, to just feel whole again," Janet Horn said. And now, she can focus on what she does best -- being a mom. The port can stay in the breast for up to a year. Typically, insurance companies will cover the procedure for breast reconstruction but not for cosmetic purposes.

### About the Author

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Source: <http://www.breast-implants-info.com>