

Press Release

Upgraded Recommendations Concerning PIP Breast Implants

On 5 December 2011, Afssaps received a report of a case of breast cancer (adenocarcinoma) in a patient who had been using PIP implants for several years. Just a few days ago, another case of cancer (anaplastic, large-cell lymphoma) caused the death of a woman using PIP implants.

Given the documented aberrations occurring with PIP implants, which led to their withdrawal from the market in March 2010, this new information justifies upgrading the recommendations issued by Afssaps:

- Patients who have PIP implants must systematically be offered a clinical exam and suitable radiological examinations.
- Any rupture, suspected rupture or seepage of an implant must result in it being removed, along with the second implant.
- The option of a preventive removal of this implant, even without clinical symptoms of its deterioration, must be discussed with all women concerned.

Given these new cases, the Ministry of Health has contacted the competent healthcare agencies and learned societies in order to develop specific recommendations for healthcare professionals, to be released within the month, on methods of diagnosis, removal and monitoring.

Xavier Bertrand, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Health, and Nora Berra, State Secretary for Public Health, have requested that the General Director of Public Health set up a monitoring committee comprised of all stakeholders (health authorities, healthcare professionals, learned societies, patients' associations, etc.).

Public health authorities wish to remind the public that a free hot-line (green number) has been set up to answer questions on this subject:

No. 0800 636 636
(Open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

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