Oncoplastic surgery for the breast is an important development for improving the cosmetic outcome and the quality of life of patients who have breast cancer. Further NICE guidelines state that women having a mastectomy should be offered breast reconstruction. This procedure can be immediate or delayed.

Whiston Hospital Distinguishes itself in Merseyside

Whiston Hospital is 1 of only 9 centres in the country recognised for training of oncoplastic breast surgeons, AND...we are the only hospital in Merseyside that can offer the full spectrum of breast reconstruction from the use of implants only, to the more complex operations using the patient’s own tissues or combinations of implants and patient’s tissues.

Mr Ken Graham, one of St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals eminent plastic surgeons, has introduced oncoplastic breast surgery to further clinically enhance outcomes for patients who have breast cancer. Oncoplastic surgery is the use of plastic and reconstructive techniques combined with oncological surgery for the surgical treatment of patients who have breast cancer.
Maximising Patient Benefits

The surgical team have set up this service at Whiston Hospital so that the reconstructive plastic surgeons and the oncological breast surgeons work on parallel lists on the same days to maximise the benefits for patients. This is particularly beneficial for patients, because it improves their pathway of care, is cost effective and is consultant delivered. Furthermore, Whiston Hospital is the only hospital that provides the muscle sparing latissimus dorsi procedure, which causes less morbidity than the standard latissimus dorsi flap.

Premier Reconstruction on your Doorstep

The DIEP free flap reconstruction is regarded as the ‘Rolls Royce’ of breast reconstruction, as it is the patient’s tissues and its result is long lasting throughout the patient’s life.

Like all reconstructions which require implants, the DIEP flap and the SGAP which are from the abdomen and the buttocks respectively, do not usually need implant reconstructions. 50% of women who have implant type reconstructions will need further surgery or revisional surgery within 5 years. This is not needed with a DIEP or the SGAP.

Another advantage of the DIEP reconstruction is the short hospital stay, most patients are discharged within 5 days of their operation. The recovery is documented to be better than the TRAM flap reconstruction.

Whiston Hospital provides the full spectrum of breast reconstruction from the commoner implant reconstruction to the exclusive reconstruction such as DIEP and SGAP reconstructions, which are only performed at Whiston Hospital. The experience of our consultants and the fact they work in conjunction with the oncological breast surgeon gives patients the degree of choice that is recommended by NICE and the treatment more cost effective in the long term.

In the National Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction Audit 2011, the PROMS showed that our Trust had 94% patient satisfaction with consultant surgeon, and 88% satisfaction with clinical team.

For further information, please contact: Tracey Walker, Directorate Manager by email tracey.walker@sthk.nhs.uk or Tel: 0151 430 1137.