

Response to “Additional Thoughts on Banning Textured Implants to Prevent Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)”

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Stefan V. Danilla, MD, MSc; Rocio P. Jara, MD; Felipe Miranda, IE; Francisco Bencina, MD; Marcela Aguirre, PT, MSc; Ekaterina Troncoso MD, MSc; Cristian A. Erazo, MD; Patricio R. Andrades, MD; Sergio L. Sepulveda, MD; and Claudia R. Albornoz, MD, MSc

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We thank Dr Munhoz for his interest¹ in our study.² Dr Munhoz points out that controversy exists regarding the benefits of texturized implants compared with smooth in terms of capsular contracture. We agree with Dr Munhoz that most of the available studies are retrospective series, without controls, and involved subjective analysis. In the current study, only randomized control trials were included. Nevertheless, included studies can still possess some biases, but it is the best possible evidence at this moment.

The second critique that Dr Munhoz mentions is that only death for breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) is included in the analysis, which accounts for only 6% of complications. The decision tree of our analysis included the probability of developing BIA-ALCL, and that branch also included the possibility of in-bloc resection, surgery plus radiotherapy, surgery plus radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and death. Nevertheless, we agree with Dr Munhoz that inestimable costs in the short, medium, and long term may not be included in the current analysis.

Third, the term “smooth” is employed in a generic way that may include implants produced with technology from the 1980s. Unfortunately, that is the evidence available to date. Promising in vitro experimental studies suggest that newer technologies for smooth implants with higher roughness may affect inflammation and biofilm formation, but not enough clinical data are available to date to make those statements. Most new devices still lack adequate follow-up because the average onset of BIA-ALCL is 8 years.

We think smooth implants are not the ultimate solution. We hope that new-generation implants with less aggressive textures can balance the risk of capsular contracture and also reduce the risk of BIA-ALCL.

Disclosures

Dr Danilla has received airplane tickets, lodging, and inscription costs for medical congress assistance from Polytech. Dr Albornoz has received travel expenses from Allergan for a medical conference. Dr Erazo has received airplane tickets from Allergan and Polytech. The other authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

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Drs Danilla, Troncoso, Erazo, Andrades, Sepulveda, and Albornoz are Plastic Surgeons, and Dr Jara is a Research Fellow, Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, University Hospital of Chile, Santiago, Chile. Dr Miranda is an Engineer and Dr Aguirre is a Physiotherapist, Center of Medical Informatics and Telemedicine, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile. Dr Bencina is a General Surgeon, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Corresponding Author:

Dr Stefan Danilla, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, University Hospital of Chile, 999 Santos Dumont Av, Independencia, Santiago 8380456, Chile.

E-mail: drstefandanilla@gmail.com; Twitter: [@DrStefanDanilla](https://twitter.com/DrStefanDanilla)

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