



## POSITION STATEMENT

# Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)

## Our position

The Leukaemia Foundation closely monitors many issues related to blood cancer and their effect on our health.

We're aware of reports of a connection between people who have received textured breast implants, a type of surgical breast implant, and who have subsequently been diagnosed with a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. This type of cancer is not breast cancer. It is known as breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL). It's rare and can be effectively treated if detected early.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons urge people with breast implants to be vigilant in monitoring for any changes, including lumps, pain, swelling or skin changes in their breasts, and to contact their doctor if they notice anything. People with breast implants should also have their implants checked by their doctor every year.

The Leukaemia Foundation supports a scientific, evidence-based approach in identifying potential connections to causes of blood cancer. We recognise there may be a connection between breast implants and blood cancer but more research is needed to understand any potential connections. We will continue to closely monitor the issue.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding BIA-ALCL, please speak with your healthcare professional.

[More information can be accessed via the Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) here.](#)



**Alignment with Patient First Strategy: Lead towards zero lives lost**

## What we do

The Leukaemia Foundation is the Australian charity stopping blood cancer from wrecking lives.

We exist for every Australian affected by any type of blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

The Leukaemia Foundation offers expert support, funds leading-edge research and campaigns to make change for Australians facing blood cancer.

Our goal is zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Our values power our purpose and drive us toward our goal: we care deeply, we're bold, and we always step up and make it count for people living with blood cancer.

## Why we do it

Your blood is a remarkable thing. It keeps you alive by giving your body what it needs, taking away what it doesn't and fighting off infection.

Blood cancer stops your blood from doing what it needs to keep you alive and healthy.

It develops in the places of your body where blood is made, but its exact cause is unknown.

Another 53 Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer each day, joining more than 135,000 people living with the devastating impact of our second most diagnosed cancer.

A range of things affect someone's chance of surviving blood cancer and it can be incurable. Sadly, another 16 Australians will lose their life to blood cancer each and every day.

# Frequently asked questions

<b><i>What is breast implant associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)?</i></b>	<p>A rare type of lymphoma that develops adjacent to breast implants.</p> <p>It usually develops as a swelling of the breast 3 to 14 years after the insertion of breast implants, which is due to fluid collecting around the implant, or it can present as a lump in the breast or armpit.</p> <p>BIA-ALCL does not develop in the breast tissue.</p>
<b><i>What is the treatment of BIA-ALCL?</i></b>	<p>The majority of cases are cured with the removal of implants and the fibrous capsule around them from both breasts.</p> <p>The majority of patients require no additional treatment.</p> <p>Less commonly, additional treatment such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy may be required.</p>
<b><i>What should you do if you are concerned about your breast implants?</i></b>	<p><i>If you are concerned about your breast implants, speak with your relevant healthcare professional.</i></p>

## REFERENCES

1. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma. <https://www.tga.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/breast-implants-and-anaplastic-large-cell-lymphoma>
2. Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons. BIA-ALCL, BIA-SCC, and other various cancers. <https://plasticsurgery.org.au/protecting-patient-safety/bia-alcl/>
3. Cancer Council NSW. Risks of having an implant reconstruction. <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-information/managing-cancer-side-effects/breast-prostheses-and-reconstruction/breast-reconstruction/implant-reconstruction/risks-of-having-an-implant-reconstruction/>

## More questions? Get in touch

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