

# Nipple Reconstruction

Author: Rachel Fenn, Breast Care Nurse Specialist



**James Paget**  
**University Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

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Nipple reconstruction can be offered once your breast reconstruction has healed and settled into its final shape and position. This enables the surgeon to position the nipple accurately, in line with the one on your other breast. The time between your operation and nipple reconstruction will normally be about six months.

## How is it done?

The procedure is performed in theatre but under a local anesthetic. The skin on your breast flap can be cut and folded into a nipple shape. This is a cosmetic result and it is important to realise that it will not have any sensation that will react to touch or temperature changes. Some loss of prominence will occur over time.

## Hospital Stay

You will be admitted to the day care unit for several hours.

## What are the risks and complications?

Side effects are rare, but with any procedure there is a risk of infection.

An antibacterial ointment will be applied at the end of your operation in theatre underneath your dressing.

## Recovery

You are advised not to squash your new nipple. It will be protected by your post operative dressing.

You will have a gauze dressing over your nipple with a hole.

You will be reviewed in the outpatients clinic for removal of stitches two weeks after your reconstruction.

Any questions can be answered by contacting your breast care nurse.

## Nipple Tattooing

Once your nipple reconstruction has healed, you can be added to the nipple tattoo waiting list. Nipple tattooing is the final cosmetic touch, giving a colour to the nipple and surrounding area creating an areola to match your opposite breast.

**If you have any concerns, please contact your breast care nurse on 01493 452447 9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday.**

## Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

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PALS 01493 453240**