

to D or not to D

YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HANNAH KHYMYCH



1992 Pamela Anderson jogs down the *Baywatch* beach, bouncing breast implants into the bigger-is-better arena. The same year a voluntary moratorium on silicone implants is announced in the U.S., surrounding consumer fears that leaks are leading to systemic illnesses like rheumatoid arthritis.

1996 Saline-implant surgeries have increased 72 percent since 1992, but silicone isn't totally forgotten: Two years later, researchers in the U.S., Denmark, and Sweden find no convincing evidence that silicone leaks cause disease.

2002 Plastic surgery becomes a spectator sport: *Extreme Makeover* brings graphic footage of breast augmentation surgeries to the small screen. And it is far from a deterrent. That year, 249,641 women get implants—that's 147 percent more than five years earlier.

2006 Silicone is back. The FDA grants approval to two silicone implants and manufacturers get to work churning out a new, even more natural-looking generation of them.

2008 For the first time, breast augmentation outranks liposuction as the most popular form of cosmetic surgery in the United States, with 307,230 procedures performed.

2019 Some implants come under scrutiny: The FDA asks for a voluntary recall of Allergan's textured implants (often used in reconstructive surgeries following mastectomies) because reports indicate a link to anaplastic large cell lymphoma, a rare form of cancer.

2021 Breast augmentation continues to evolve: "I anticipate evolutionary changes in implants and the techniques that we use to place them," says Adam R. Kolker, a plastic surgeon in New York City. For example, a minimally invasive technique for inserting implants through a small incision is in trials in Costa Rica, says Steven Teitelbaum, a plastic surgeon in Santa Monica, so you may be able to have the procedure without general anesthesia.