

Frequently Asked Questions about Breast Implant–associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)

- 1. What is breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)?**

BIA-ALCL is a very rare form of cancer. It can grow in the skin, lymph nodes or scar tissue around the implant. Most people with implant associated BIA-ALCL are successfully treated and cured.
- 2. How common is BIA-ALCL?**

It is a very rare condition.
- 3. What type of implant causes BIA-ALCL?**

International research has shown only textured surface implants have been affected to date.
- 4. What type of implant do I have?**

If you are a SIVUH patient and unsure of which type of implant you have please call the helpline on (085) 8700209 and we can inform you of your implant type. If you did not have your implant surgery in SIVUH please contact the hospital/clinic where it was inserted.
- 5. What are the signs of BIA-ALCL?**

The most common sign of BIA-ALCL is fluid around the implant. This usually happens years after the implant was originally placed. The breast may also become lumpy or misshapen with tightening or development of scar tissue around the implant. You would notice this as a substantial size change on the affected side. The breast may feel tense or firm. Usually the swelling comes on rapidly over several days or weeks not over months or years. Less commonly BIA-ALCL can cause tumours in the breast skin or enlarged lymph nodes in the armpit. It is important to note that these signs do not necessarily mean a person has BIA-ALCL; they can also be from the implant leaking or other causes of swelling. If you have any of these signs it is important to see your doctor to have it checked.
- 6. How is BIA-ALCL diagnosed?**

Your surgeon will examine your breast and may order an ultrasound to evaluate the scar tissue or fluid around the implant.
- 7. How is BIA-ALCL treated?**

The treatment for BIA-ALCL is usually surgery to remove the scar tissue and the implant. Surgery alone is the treatment for many patients however a very small number of patients may require additional treatment.

Where can I find more information about implant associated BIA-ALCL?

You can find more information about BIA-ALCL on

- [https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medical-devices/special-topics/breast-implant-associated--anaplastic-large-cell-lymphoma-\(bia-alcl\)](https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medical-devices/special-topics/breast-implant-associated--anaplastic-large-cell-lymphoma-(bia-alcl))
- <https://www.sivuh.ie>