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I am not familiar with the studies quoted which suggest that a liquid silicone has had a carcinogenic action. However, based upon their subsequent comments which deal with malignancies induced by the implantation of a disc of plastic, I am lead to believe that they are commenting on a carcinogenic effect from the injection of the liquid silicone. It seems to me that this raises several questions of the significance of their observations because they have used an injection or an implantation technique to induce the disease. The significance of this is highly questionable. For example, they site the induction of cancers by implantation of a disc of unplasticized polyvinyl chloride acetate resin. They completely disregard the fact that these types of lesions were first induced almost 20 years ago using a large variety of materials implanted as discs or films. Subsequently it was shown that when the same materials were ground into a powder and injected or implanted subcutaneously they no longer had carcinogenic properties. It was, therefore, concluded that the carcinogenic action of the disc or the film was the result of its physical condition rather than due to the material from which it was made.

We know that certain silicone oils have been injected into women for breast augmentation. We know that this has been done in rather large numbers of women with rather tragic results. To the best of my knowledge cancer has not been one of the tragic results resulting from this procedure.

I see no reason to get upset about a note of this type at this point

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in time. It is very probable that we will be doing certain carcinogenesis studies of our own in the not too distant future and that any concern w should have should derive from our own studies, if indeed any cause f r concern does arise.

Very truly yours,

C. U. Dernehl, M. D.
Associate Medical Director

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