

Introduction to the “Current Controversies in Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)” Supplement

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Our understanding of breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) is progressing rapidly. Consider as recent as 2011, the US Food and Drug Administration BIA-ALCL safety communication was based solely on 60 known world cases. At that time, there was no consensus on whether BIA-ALCL actually existed, no established optimal diagnosis and treatment, and no understanding of the biology of the disease.¹ Few surgeons and even fewer patients had ever heard of the disease. Eight years and 600 cases later, safety advisories from the US Food and Drug Administration have become an annual event, and updates are ubiquitous at most society meetings. Mindful of this past, we present the following *Aesthetic Surgery Journal* (ASJ) supplement, “Current Controversies in Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma.” This supplement is the first of its kind in any journal and represents the most up-to-date, complete, and extensive discourse on the understanding of BIA-ALCL by many of the world-recognized experts.

With increased scrutiny from government authorities and media, plastic surgeons must have the most thorough and meaningful peer-reviewed research on BIA-ALCL to discuss with patients and make practice decisions. The goals of this BIA-ALCL supplement were multifold. We wanted to begin with the fundamentals of the disease from diagnosis and management. First published as a review manuscript in this journal,² National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines have become the recognized standard of care for treatment of

BIA-ALCL. Authors from Dana Farber, Memorial Sloan Kettering, and MD Anderson Cancer Center, all National Comprehensive Cancer Network lymphoma committee authors, present the 2019 update to the BIA-ALCL consensus guidelines. Previous recommendations are now further augmented and expanded by evidence-based interim publications. The supplement continues with the current state of research on pathogenesis by examining leading theories on the critical role of cytokines, biofilm, inflammatory mediators, superantigens, and cellular origins. Collectively, these manuscripts represent an enormous step forward in our understanding of lymphomagenesis and demonstrate progress made towards preventing the disease process. Finally, special topic manuscripts are presented by Dr. Hamdi on polyurethane implants and Dr. Deva on managing conflicts of interest in BIA-ALCL research. All supplement articles have undergone extensive and rigorous peer-review by invited content experts and the editorial board and underwent further revision before acceptance to ensure the highest quality information is presented.

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Controversies are inherently emotional and polarizing, with few debates more so in the field of plastic surgery than is generated by BIA-ALCL. However, this supplement has an important overarching theme beyond *controversy*, and that is one of *collaboration*. Although we may not be able to achieve consensus on every aspect of the disease, the authors in this supplement have demonstrated a commitment to working together, information exchange, and research partnership. I would like to thank the editorial office team and the coauthors for their contributions to the supplement under accelerated timelines, their high level of academic discourse, and their collaborative spirit. The supplement was only possible through the generous support of industry sponsors who importantly relinquished any content or editorial control. As the number one journal in aesthetic surgery, *ASJ* has a commitment to spreading the most critical scientific developments pertinent to plastic surgeons. We proudly present this supplement, “Current Controversies in Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma,” and hope the readership finds meaningful information for their practice and for the future of research on this disease.

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