

Jenna's Wish for Breast Implants: Problem Handouts



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Jenna's Wish for Breast Implants

Problem Statement

PARENTS BUY BREAST IMPLANTS FOR DAUGHTER, 15

London (AP) - Jenna Franklin is only 15 but she thinks she knows the secret to a successful future— bigger breasts.

Jenna's parents want their daughter to be happy, so they've agreed to pay for breast enlargements as a 16th birthday present.

The unusual gift grabbed headlines and filled the airwaves yesterday as Britons debates what kind of society places such a high value on appearance, particularly for young women. Health specialists warned that Jenna is far too young.

But writing in the Daily Express—which splashed the story on its front page, "Jenna is pretty and intelligent. So why on Earth is her mother buying breast implants for her 16th birthday?" Jenna insisted "You've got to have breasts to be successful."

The youngster, whose parents run a cosmetic surgery advisory service in Mansfield in central England, told the tabloid she started thinking about the surgery when she was 12.

"Every other person you see on television has had implants," she wrote. If I want to be successful I need to have them too."

The plastic surgeon's association said statistics are not kept on the number of teenagers who have the surgery, but the usual advice is to wait until age 18.

Jenna's mother, Kay Franklin, defended her decision, saying larger breasts would boost her daughter's confidence.

"There are so many young girls who are depressed or bothered about the way they look, so if you can do something about it, that's great," Jenna's mother said. She has had her own breasts enlarged, cosmetic surgery on her nose and cheeks, and liposuction on her stomach and hips.

The Franklins plan to arrange their daughter's \$7,350 operation after her August 23rd birthday.

Source: The Toronto Star Newspaper, January 5, 2001, Edition 1.

Questions for student to complete in small groups, Day 1:

1. Do you think Jenna should have the breast implants? What information do you need to answer this question?
2. What are the possible side effects and medical complications linked to (or asserted to be linked to) implants?

Begin after in class work on Day 1 and finished on or before Day 2:

1. Based on the medical information you have reviewed, what is your assessment of the current status of the safety of implants?



2. List the arguments for and against elective breast implants (not those needed for mastectomy or other medical reason).
3. Discuss the danger in rationalizing this procedure as a way to boost self-confidence/self-esteem. Is there a flaw in the logic?