

Areola reconstruction

“Nipple/Areola tattoo”

Presented by

LUMAESTHETICS

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Areola pigmentation tattoo after breast reconstruction

Breast cancer has become ubiquitous touching the lives of women and their families throughout South Africa and the world. Many women who have endured the terrible ordeal of suffering with breast cancer leading to mastectomy can have the finishing touches completed with Areola Restoration otherwise known as Nipple / Areola Tattooing.

Breast reconstruction has given many women the ability to restore their sense of femininity after mastectomy. Women feel better about themselves when they can look in a mirror with confidence and see a breast that looks somewhat normal by conventional standards.

This final step of reconstruction is an easy procedure that can be completed in 1 – 2 hours depending on the patient. The procedure is virtually painless and restores the circular pigment around the reconstructed nipple. If reconstruction of the nipple was not created, a 3D Areola can be created using specialized techniques. If the patient has undergone unilateral breast reconstruction, we can mix pigments so that the tattoo closely matches your existing nipple areola colour. If the patient has undergone bilateral breast reconstruction, I can create the appropriate natural colour based on their pre-mastectomy photos, or I can mix pigments to create a colour that nicely complements their skin tone. Some women elect to choose a darker or lighter colour than their original nipple areola colour, making the experience a truly customizable procedure. I like to let the patient draw on what size areola they would like, and then we discuss exactly what they are looking for. Some women request really large areolas while others prefer very small.

I usually wait at least 6 months to create a permanent areola subsequent to any breast implant or corrective surgery. Doctor's consent is always needed, just to make sure we are in the clear.

Areola pigmentation is not just for woman who had mastectomies, but also woman who has asymmetrical areolas or who has undergone breast augmentation or breast lift surgery. With tattooing, the undersized areola can be brought back into proportion with the other areola if it doesn't require any surgical alteration. If both areolas are shaped asymmetrically, tattooing is an easy application to correct both of them to get them to match.

Areola Re-pigmentation is one of the easiest procedures to perform. Areola re-pigmentation, whether it is just inserting pigment around the white rings around the areola to conceal a light scar or rebuilding a complete areola and nipple, are less invasive, less painful and the healing process is faster.

This final phase of reconstruction, usually referred to as "nipple tattooing", often serves to transform the reconstruction into a breast that is truly your breast. This enables many survivors to lay their cancer burden down and move forward in life with restored femininity.



Areola pigmentation done by

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