

The surgeons' surgeons

BMI top Consultants

Voted into the Top 10 Surgeons

Name: Mr Venkat Ramakrishnan
MBBS, MS General Surgery,
FRACS (Plas), FRCS(Eng)
Consultant Plastic Surgeon, BMI
Southend Private Hospital

Name: Mr Stephen McCulley
MBChB FCS (SA) Plast FRCS (Plast)
Consultant Plastic Surgeon,
BMI The Park Hospital

Name: Mr Graham Perks
MBBS, FRCS, FRCS(Plast), FRACS
Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgeon, BMI The Park Hospital

Name: Mrs Eva Weiler-Mithoff
FRCS (Ed) FRCS (Glas) FRCS (Plast)
Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgeon, BMI Ross Hall Hospital

Voted highly recommended

Name: Mr Douglas Macmillan
MBChB MD FRCS
Consultant Oncoplastic Breast
Surgeon, BMI The Park Hospital

In a recent poll, BMI consultants took four of the top 10 places as voted by other surgeons, for their skill and compassion in breast reconstruction surgery.

'I feel whole again'

At BMI Healthcare, it's a comment we're delighted to hear from many women who have had successful breast reconstruction surgery. It marks the conclusion of a journey, both physical and emotional. Following the trauma of cancer surgery or other treatments, breast reconstruction can restore women's physical shape and state of mind, enabling them to regain their active and confident selves.

If you're contemplating reconstructive surgery, there are several things to consider. One of them is timing. For many women, it is perfectly possible to undergo a mastectomy and reconstruction in the same operation. However, others choose (or may be advised) to wait weeks, months or even longer before thinking about reconstruction.

But perhaps the biggest decision is to choose the right consultant/surgeon and the type of reconstruction procedure that's suitable, and which will deliver the result you want. Naturally, this is a conversation you will have in great detail with your consultant.

Finding the best

When women want and are suitable for an immediate reconstruction, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon may work as a team. Traditionally, the breast surgeon removes the cancer and then the plastic surgeon performs the reconstruction. Alternatively and increasingly, an oncoplastic breast or plastic surgeon may be able to offer all the skills necessary. So how do you navigate this course and find the right consultant/surgeon for you.

That's what the Daily Mail set out to do. On the basis that the best people to judge experts are other experts, they canvassed 50 leading surgeons up and down the country. They asked them: "If your nearest and dearest were to be diagnosed with breast cancer, who would you refer them to?"

BMI was delighted to see that four of our surgeons were in the Top 10, and one other listed as 'highly recommended' as an expert in this field. Of course, there are countless other highly skilled surgeons all over the country. Each has one thing in common: as specialists in reconstructive surgery, they rebuild not only breasts, but shattered self-esteem as well.

Some comments on leading BMI surgeons, made by other expert colleagues in the Daily Mail survey.

Mr Ramakrishnan - "He is technically excellent and has pushed the boundaries with the most challenging microsurgical techniques."

Mr McCulley - "Forward-thinking. Has training in oncoplastic techniques, so is able to clear cancer (as breast surgeons do) and carry out reconstruction."

Mr Perks - "Kind, down-to-earth and self-effacing - and a very good surgeon."

Mr Macmillan - "Often works as a team with Stephen McCulley. Regarded as good at determining what surgical approach to take in order to get the best results. Forward thinking."

Mrs Eva Weiler-Mithoff - "An approachable, dedicated and highly skilled surgeon, rated among the top international breast reconstructive surgeons."

All the BMI surgeons were flattered by the accolade and Mr McCulley explained the importance of their field: "Most of the time our patients have been to hell and back, and our job is to do as much as we can as surgeons to help them restore some normality to their lives." Mr Perks added: "We always strive to deliver the care to patients that we would want our loved ones to receive." Mr MacMillan commented: "This recognition is extremely rewarding for all of us, as we have been chosen by our fellow professionals in the field and it demonstrates the level of trust they place in us."

Executive Director of BMI The Park Hospital, John Pickering said: "Breast reconstruction is an extremely complex speciality, which not only requires great skill and experience, but also a great sense of compassion."