

My agony to look like Julia



ligaments and tendons) and chronic fatigue syndrome. I was miserable.

I started researching implants on the internet. I read about the thousands of women who'd had saline implants and who experienced symptoms just like mine. Many reported that when they had them removed they got better.

Later my new doctor told me my

body was reacting to silicone – he said even saline implants have a silicone shell. He also told me my breasts were still growing when I had the surgery, which put me at further risk. I hadn't known that women's breasts can continue to grow into their early 20s. I couldn't believe I wasn't warned of the dangers prior to the operation.

I had the implants taken out in September 2003 at a cost of \$6,000. The procedure was featured on the MTV reality show *I Want A Famous Face*. I wanted to go public to warn other young women of the potential hazards.

I felt better immediately after the implants were removed. But it's been a long process. I have lost a lot

of weight and I'm still in a great deal of pain. I can't even live by myself because I don't have the dexterity to open pill bottles or prepare meals.

I want to tell other teens that they shouldn't have implants because they're still growing and their hormones will interfere. There's a lot of pressure but don't give into it: stop and think, and wait for your breasts to grow to their full size naturally.

At this point I've given up trying to look like Julia Roberts. I am proud to be me and happy in my own skin.

● For more information on Kacey's campaign against implants see www.implantsout.org

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