

## AHEAD OF THE CURVES The newest breast-enhancing technologies in the works represent significant innovations in design.

### IMPLITE

**DESIGN:** This honeycomb-like implant is filled simply with pockets of air.

**ADVANTAGES:** At one-third the weight of standard implants, it is less likely to drag down breasts over time or cause hardening of scar tissue, according to its developer, Ami Glicksman, an Israeli plastic surgeon. No gel filling means no risk of leakage, and Glicksman says it will not deflate if punctured. It's especially geared toward women undergoing partial reconstruction after a lumpectomy, he adds, and it's expected to last as long as 20 years.

**WHEN?** Human trials, which need to be successfully completed in order to seek FDA approval, have not started.



### IDEAL

**DESIGN:** Conceived by Robert S. Hamas, a plastic surgeon in Dallas, it consists of multiple nested silicone-rubber shells filled with saline.

**ADVANTAGES:** Controlled flow of fluid between compartments is said to give the Ideal the natural feel of breast tissue, as opposed to standard saline implants' firmness and potential bouncing, wrinkling, and bulging on the sides. And unlike silicone implants, saline ones don't need regular MRI monitoring to detect leaks, notes Bonnie Baldwin, a plastic surgeon in Houston who is studying the Ideal.

**WHEN?** An FDA trial is under way.



### MICROIMPLANTS

**DESIGN:** Instead of placing a traditional implant under the breast, the doctor injects hundreds of raisin-size silicone pouches through a tiny incision, says developer William A. Brennan, a neurosurgeon in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**ADVANTAGES:** The incision is one quarter of an inch, versus two inches or more for current implants. In the event of a rupture of one "raisin," much less gel would be released than with a regular silicone implant. Patients can later increase or decrease volume in an office procedure under local anesthesia.

**WHEN?** Clinical trials of microimplants should begin sometime this year.

