



breasts

AXIS OF SYMMETRY

THE LATEST IN 3D SCANNING TECHNOLOGY, THE **BIOMETRIX AXISTHREE** IS THE NEWEST ADVANCEMENT IN DIGITAL SIMULATION TO TAKE YOUR BREAST SURGERY CONSULTATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL. GEMMA GARKUT REPORTS.

When it comes to breast augmentation, a good consultation should leave nothing to the imagination. The Biometrix AxisThree imaging system uses the newest 3D imaging technology to enhance the consultation process for both surgeons and patients, delivering an individualised depiction of what breast augmentation can achieve.

According to Sydney plastic surgeon Dr Peter Laniewski, accurate computer imaging is essential for the modern consultation process. 'Just like trying a dress on before you buy it, the Biometrix AxisThree imaging system allows people to see how they will likely look after breast surgery, and make informed choices about their results,'

he says. 'Patients can see how their body will look with different shapes and sizes of implants, allowing them to feel confident about their consultation and their decisions.'

'The accuracy of the Biometrix AxisThree system is due to the Siemen's scanning technology, which uses Colour Coded Triangulation (CCT) to capture precise images of the patient's own body,' says Biometrix director Scott Sorensen. 'Paired with the latest Tissue Behaviour Simulation software, it provides a clear interface for surgeons and patients to communication with each other.'

'When looking at breast implants themselves, it can be hard to imagine what a teardrop or a round implant might look like when they're actually placed in the breasts,'

explains Dr Laniewski. 'Biometrix AxisThree makes it possible for patients to visualise their likely results and make well-informed decisions.'

The system involves four three-dimensional cameras, which simultaneously take an image of the patient and reconstruct it to depict the patient's measurements. 'This allows us to measure the patient's existing breast volume in each breast, which prevents discrepancies and makes planning much easier and more accurate,' he says.

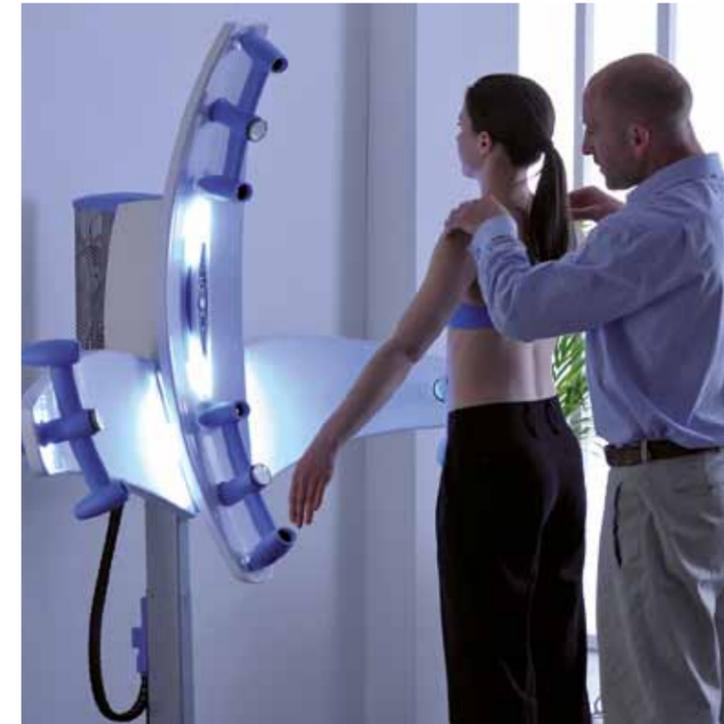
Dr Laniewski notes that Biometrix AxisThree is particularly suited to patients who find it hard to visualise their results. 'We can play with the size of the implants and their position under or above the muscle until the patient is happy with how the implants sit,' he says. 'Sometimes the implants won't appear as the patients thought they would, so the system provides the patient with a platform to convey exactly what she wants, and provides me with a platform to explain the steps possible to achieve this.'

In his experience, Dr Laniewski says Biometrix AxisThree is the most accurate imaging system on the market with the most advanced software, and it has become an integral part of his consultation practice. 'For procedures involving an implant alone, the machine is very accurate,' he says. Because of this, Dr Laniewski uses the system breast reconstruction patients who have had a mastectomy and thus have no existing breast tissue. 'Patients can be scanned with a bra or bikini top and see how different breast sizes complement their figure and lifestyle, allowing me to tailor the operation to these needs,' he says.

'Older patients who have sagging breast tissue usually require a breast lift as well, and in these cases the system is not as accurate, but it is still very useful to show the patient how the implant will most likely look.'

But breast augmentation is not the only procedure the technology can be used for. 'There are also modules for the nose and face for cheek and chin augmentation, which are equally beneficial to the consultation process. The patient's facial skeleton is simulated so that the projected volumisation is suited specifically to their facial structure.'

While the Biometrix AxisThree is predominantly utilised for consultations pertaining to face and breast procedures, Dr Laniewski says this advanced technology has future



potential to simulate other parts of the body for a complete consultation tool.

'Using it in my clinic means the patient can think about her options and digest the information without any guesswork in terms of how the results might look,' says Dr Laniewski. 'It gives the power back to the patient – allowing her to be confident in her own decision making and how the operation will proceed.' **acsm**

