

state-of-the-art BREAST RECONSTRUCTION

By Michele Sample

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A state-of-the-art breast reconstruction surgery is available for cancer patients that have or will undergo mastectomies in Douglas County.

It's called the *Deep Inferior Epigastric Perforator Flap*.

The procedure is a "muscle-sparing" technique and can be a "nerve-sparing" technique as well, according to **Dr. Christopher Williams** and **Dr. Jeremy Williams**, internationally recognized surgeons for their practice and facility, *Park Meadows Cosmetic Surgery* founded by **Dr. Randolph Robinson**.

Lisa Moore, Molina resident, was the first patient to have the DIEP Flap procedure by "**Dr Chris.**" At the age of 28, Moore was diagnosed with breast cancer, but found out she was pregnant with her second daughter at the time.

"I was given the option of having a lumpectomy or a mastectomy," Moore said. "It was a no-brainer to save my child."

Fast forward six years, and in January, Moore, after many years of personal research online, found the procedure she wanted was right in Colorado. What appealed to her was that the surgery could give women the nerve sensation back to the breast.

"Too much time had gone by for me, but if you have a mastectomy and this surgery at the same time, women can regain the connection," Moore added.

Now, a busy home-school mom of six children ages 1 through 7, Moore is excited to let others know how "beautiful" and "good about herself" she feels.

The *Park Meadows Cosmetic Surgery* center in Lone Tree, in conjunction with Sky Ridge Medical Center, have performed approximately 10 of the DIEP Flap procedures since February. Both Williamses, not related, who perform this procedure were both trained at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in the residency program for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

The method of breast reconstruction allows the surgeon to use the patient's own body tissue without the need for implants or sacrifices of the abdominal muscles. An incision along the bikini line is made much like that used for a tummy tuck. The necessary skin, fat and tiny feeding blood vessels are removed, and re-attached to blood vessels within the mastectomy site to reconstruct the new breast.

Dr Robinson is double-board certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery.

Only approximately 60 surgeons across the United States perform this operation, less than 5 percent of all plastic surgeons. It is the only surgery where there is a possibility to reconstruct the nerves that go to the breast skin, according to the *Park Meadows Cosmetic Surgery* group.



Dr. Randolph Robinson, left, **Dr. Jeremy Williams**, standing, and **Dr. Christopher Williams** of the Park Meadows Cosmetic Surgery team in Lone Tree. Courtesy photo