

Learn More About Reconstruction Options

Dr. Studinger has trained in lymph node reconstruction with Dr. Becker, in Paris, France and in South Carolina.

Becker C, Assouad J, Riquet M, Hidden G. Postmastectomy lymphedema: long-term results following microsurgical lymph node transplantation. Ann Surg. 2006 Mar;243(3):313-5

Dr. Rebecca Studinger



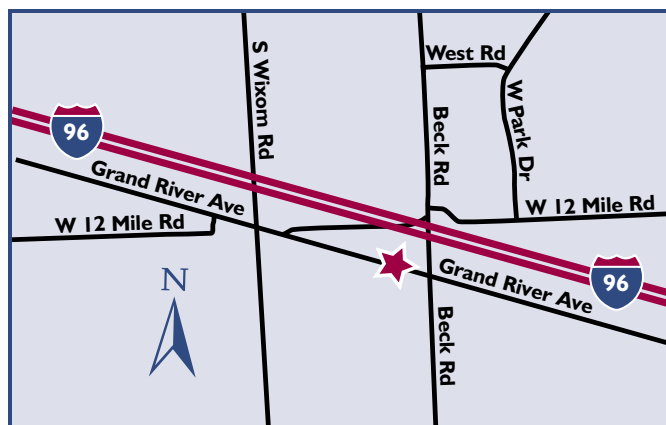
- M.D. from Michigan State University – College of Human Medicine
- M.S. from Northern Michigan University
- Completed general surgery and plastic surgery residencies at Providence Hospital – Southfield
- Completed microsurgical breast reconstruction fellowship with Robert J. Allen, M.D., a pioneer in microsurgical perforator flap reconstruction techniques

www.drstudinger.com

Locations

Dr. Studinger has two convenient locations to serve you. Call today for an appointment.

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on the campus of Providence Park Hospital
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PROVIDENCE

Lymphedema

Lymphedema and Lymph Node Transplantation

Rebecca Studinger, M.D., M.S.
Board Certified General Surgeon
Plastic Surgery Trained
Trained in Lymph Node Reconstruction

Lymphedema – What is it?

- Lymphedema is the swelling of a portion of the body caused by the blockage or absence of lymphatic drainage
- This can occur either as a congenital problem (people are born with it) or one that is acquired
- Most commonly in the United States, lymphedema is caused by lymph node removals for cancer (i.e. breast cancer), but it can also occur from trauma, radiation and other diseases
- The lymphatic system clears fluid, proteins, and plays an important role in the immune system

What can you do about it?

- Lymphatic massage
- Pressure garments
- Lymphatic pump therapy
- Antibiotics
- Surgical therapy



What are some of the problems?

People with lymphedema can have problems with

- Skin changes
- Increasing size of the extremity and worsening of the lymphedema
- Difficulties with activities of daily living (i.e. walking, or using the arm and hand)
- Decreased activity ability
- Infections
- Pain
- Lymphangiosarcoma

Surgical therapy:

Lymph node transplantation is the removal of a small number of lymph nodes from an unaffected site to the area with lymphedema.

Once in place, the lymph nodes start to collect the excess fluid buildup and decrease the amount of swelling in the affected area.

This can help relieve symptoms of pain and tightness as well as some of the other problems associated with lymphedema.

Am I a candidate?

The best way to tell if you are a candidate is to have an appointment to assess your lymphedema.

Studies will be performed to assess the lymph node function of the area and of the other extremities.

Lymph node transplantation can also be coordinated with breast reconstruction with DIEP flaps.

