



STORM IN A D-CUP

➤ An Australian invention designed to treat heart disease is set to become the next-generation breast implant.

Silicon implants were taken off the market in 1993 over fears that they could leak, and cosmetic surgeons have also frowned on saline implants due to their unnatural feel.

Now the Scottish-Australian firm AorTech has taken Elast-Eon, developed by the CSIRO in Melbourne as a cardiovascular implant, and reinvented it as the new 'life-like' implant for breast augmentation procedures.

'The new material is a combination of polyurethane and silicone, and it seems to successfully merge the advantages for both materials – the toughness of polyurethane and the elasticity of silicone,' says Sydney cosmetic surgeon Dr Mark Kohout.

'Current silicone implants already have softness and flexibility which approximates the normal breast but the new polymer may add the advantage of durability and possibly of decreased complications.

'At this stage, Elast-Eon remains an exciting but untried new product which will be subjected to a few years of testing yet,' Dr Kohout explains.