

“It’s been two years since my radiation ended, and you’d never know that I had breast cancer.”

Carla Busick

—Insurance agency executive

DR. CRISTINA FREXES KEUSCH, M.D.

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For Carla Busick, the recovery from a bout with breast cancer was marked by complications.

First, a lumpectomy left an indentation. Then Busick went through radiation therapy only to have the high doses cause a hardening of an implant she had received prior to the cancer. Subsequent surgery, Busick says, left her with breasts that were disproportionate to the rest of her body. “I was miserable,” she said.

After consulting with several physicians, Busick turned to Dr. Cristina Keusch, who she had met in 2000 during an earlier procedure. After a brief consultation, Dr. Keusch and Busick discovered they were on the same page. A short time later, Dr. Keusch performed breast reduction surgery to bring Busick back into balance. “She put me back to normal again,” she said. “Now, I’m back in proportion. It’s been two years since my radiation stopped, and you’d never know that I had breast cancer.”

At Dr. Keusch’s office, where she had gone for breast augmentation prior to the cancer, Busick also received liposculpture treatments as well as other rejuvenation procedures that were done without downtime. “Carla exemplifies the complex

relationship we have with our patients in that we’re performing rejuvenation procedures but also, at times, we’re fulfilling their reconstruction needs,” Dr. Keusch said. “The relationship we have with our patients can be on multiple levels.”

Dr. Keusch, a third-generation surgeon who studied at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, believes that one of Busick’s greatest strengths was doing a lot of homework as she went through the challenge of getting her body back to where she wanted it to be following cancer. “She’s very knowledgeable and she did a lot of research,” Dr. Keusch said.

While Busick believes that Dr. Keusch was a good choice because she shares the female point of view, the doctor says there were other important factors that came into play as well.

“I don’t think it’s just about being a woman—it’s about having similar philosophies and being able to share a certain rapport,” said Dr. Keusch, who estimates that between 35 and 40 percent of her work involves breast lifts, reductions or augmentations. “It’s about feeling that the surgeon is not only qualified but is also capable of knowing what you want.”

