Psychological assessment of women on an early breast screening program after radiotherapy to the chest wall for childhood cancer

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ABSTRACT

Aims and background. This study investigates the psychological status in a population of female patients who received chest irradiation for a childhood cancer and were screened for second primary breast cancer.

Methods. Sixty-eight consecutive such young women were included. Compilation of the Crown-Crisp Index questionnaire was requested and 49/68 patients accepted to fill it in; 14 women in the sample had children (28%).

Results. Twenty-seven of 49 patients achieved a normal score, whereas in 22 the score was slightly above the normal range in at least one scale. Pathological scores were more frequent among the women without children.

Conclusions. Quality of life in this series of long-term survivors does not seem to be severely affected by previous treatment for cancer nor by the concern for the onset of a second primary malignancy.

Key words: psychosocial, quality of life, late effects of cancer treatment, pediatric oncology

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