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Body Representations of Mexican Women, when they performing Screening, Treatment, and Rehabilitation for Breast Cancer. **Qualitative Study**

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Background

Destigmatizing cancer should imply some women's analysis of experience and know how they represent their body, both subjectivity and social imaginary, since the representation of breast cancer affects women's quality of life.

The objective on this research was to analyze the representation of the body with cancer in women when performing screen studies, those who are being treated for breast cancer and those seeking breast reconstructions

Method

A quality study was designed through a free listing techniques (Bogartty & Halguin, 2010), to analyze the social representation of "body with cancer".

A convenience sample was of 30 women diagnosed with breast cancer, 28 under treatment and 21 in breast reconstruction process, underserved in public health institutions of Tepic, Nayarit and Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. The frequency and percentage of commonality "body with cancer" in the elicited terms was obtained.

Fear, Despair, My children-Family Suffering, compassion **Disease-Treatments** Death **Pain-Sadness CENTRAL CORE Malady-Solution-Curable** Life-Love Peripheral level **Resignation, Courage Hair Loss** Representation's Structure of Body with Cancer Women attending mastography Close Struggle-Faith-Be positive-Strenght Tiredness -Insecurity **Elements Children-Family** Recovery **Economic Problems** Death **Fear-Sadness** Maldonado, 2013 **CENTRAL CORE Disease-Treatments-Pain**

Results

group: Central core Screening representation: death, pain and sadness; close elements: fear, suffering, despair and compassion, also concern for their families and treatments derived from the disease. Peripheral level: curable disease.

In women in treatment at the core are pain and death. Body experiences fatigue and wear; it appears uncertainty, but full compelled to have strength they fight for recovery but, inside them there are courage and desperate for economic problems.

During breast reconstruction, continues its centrally imaginary as death, sadness, pain, and fear. Thoughts of mutilation appears.

Body with Cancer Representation

Invasion-Fast -Deterioration-Hard-Life

Suffering-Courage-Despair

Hope-Patience

Women attending Breast Cancer Treatment

body With Carreer Representation					
Group	Concept	Frecuency (%)	Average Rank	Salience	
Mastography n=36	Death	58.6	2.35	0.428	
	Sadness	44.8	1.77	0.379	
	Pain	37.9	2.36	0.276	
Treatment n=28	Death	40	1.75	0.338	
	treatment	30	3.22	0.167	
	Fear	20	1.83	0.167	
	Pain	23.3	2.57	0.16	
	Sadness	26.7	3.38	0.137	
Reconstruction n=21	Death	61.9	1.92	0.505	
	Sadness	42.9	2.89	0.267	
	Pain	28.6	2.5	0.2	
	Fear	23.8	3.4	0.124	

Peripheral Level Close **Sepresion-Despair-Concern-Hope** Representation's Structure of Body with Cancer **Change of Life Elements** Disease-Struggle Family suffering Death CENTRAL CORE Sadness-Pain-Fear **Expensive Treatments Emptiness-Mutilation** Every thing end-She is going to die-They made a mistake-Anguish Peripheral Level Representation's Structure of Body with Cancer

Women in Breast Reconstruction Process

Research Implications

It prevailed representing in social corporeality imaginary, death, as sadness and pain. Under treatment feelings like fear, becomes the center. Cancer is understood as a curable disease that needs courage and resignation as the will of fighting for life. Fear persists even in rehabilitation phase. The terms involving bodily changes and symptoms resulting from aversive treatments, appeared when went under treatment. The women feelings of mutilation at the body and be incomplete, only appear the rehabilitation phase, when recognized be depressed with anguish of dying.

Clinical implications

Despite interventions with fighting attitude, emotional distress persists because the symbolism of cancer as Death and negative body representations.

Psycho-oncology interventions should consider social representations of death, fear, sadness and pain in treatment of breast cancer in women, keeping in mind the body image derived of cultural interaction affecting psychosocial aspects of women having or not having breast cancer.

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