

Issues Surrounding Access to Breast Reconstruction

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide.1

There are over

3.8 million breast cancer SURVIVORS in the U.S.¹

breast cancer

will be diagnosed in U.S. women in 2021.1

Overall rate of immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy in the U.S.

38-56%

RECONSTRUTION DISPARITIES

of U.S. women with breast cancer who live below the poverty line are inadequately insured and may not have access to breast reconstructive surgery despite reconstruction being considered the standard of care in breast cancer recovery.5



following mastectomy compared to women with private insurance.6 Studies show significantly lower rates of breast reconstruction among Black, Hispanic and Asian women compared to white women.7

POST-MASTECTOMY OUTCOMES

After mastectomy surgery, patients may experience depression, embarrassment, and hopelessness, impacting personal and professional relationships. In some cases, they may even drop out of the workforce.8

Poor women are 4x more likely to be jobless by the end of their breast cancer treatment.9



Women who have undergone mastectomy for breast cancer have a higher risk for developing short-term depression symptoms.10

BREAST RECONSTRUCTION OUTCOMES

Breast reconstruction after mastectomy offers clinical, cosmetic, and psychosocial benefits compared with mastectomy alone. 11,12,13 One study found that 12 months after reconstructions, all respondents reported a positive change in life:14





felt more whole

felt more comfortable in social situations



To learn more about how you can help women facing these issues, visit

felt it improved

their femininity

ReshapingLivesFullCircle.org



REFERENCES: 1. Breast cancer facts. National Breast Cancer Foundation. (2021, September 3). Retrieved September 16, 2021, from https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer.facts. 2. Albomoz CR, Bach PB, Mehrara BJ, et al. A paradigm shift in U.S. Breast reconstruction: increasing implant rates. Plast Reconstr Surg. 2013;131(1):15-23. doi:10.1097/PBS.0b013a3182729cde. 3. Lee RNN, Yogeswaran G, Wilson E, Oni G, Barriers and facilitators to breast reconstruction in ethnic minority women-As stranger review. J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg. 2012;17;4(3):46-37-44. doi:10.1016/j.jbjps.2020.01.0055.4. George N, K. M., Richter, N. L., Luginand, I. N., Hamm, Johoway, E. J., Zou G., & Balagurusamy, M.K. (2015). Breast cancer among women living in powerty. Better care in Canada thin the United States. Social Work Research, 39(2), 107–118. https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svv006.5. "Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (Whcra)." CMS, www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/whcra_factsheet. 6. Pasalic D, Jiang J, Jagsi R, Giordano SH, Smith BD. Association of Insurance Status with he Use of Immediate Breast Reconstruction in Women with Breast Cancer. Plast Reconstruction: an analysis of patient characteristics at a tertiary care center in the U.S. Surg Ponci. 2020;34-16. doi:10.1016/j.jsuronc.2020.02.017. https://plupmed.sevier.com/en/publications/determinants-of-receiving-immediate-breast-econstruction-an-anal 8. Shread-in-doi:10.1016/j.jsuronc.2020.02.02.017. https://plupmed.sevier.com/en/publications/determinants-of-receiving-immediate-breast-econstruction-an-anal 8. Shread-in-doi:10.1016/j.jsuronc.2020.02.02.017. https://plupmed.sevier.com/en/publications/determinants-of-receiving-immediate-breast-econstruction-an-anal 8. Shread-in-doi:10.1016/j.jsuronc.2020.02.02.017. https://plupmed.sevier.com/en/publications/determinants-of-receiving-immediate-breast-econstruction-an-anal 8. Shread-in-doi:10.1016/j.jsuronc.2020.02.02.017. https://plupmed.sevier.com/en/publications/determinants-of-receivin