

# Perception Of African Men Towards Women That Underwent Mastectomy

## Background

Breast Cancer is referred to as one of the four main types of the cancer that has been seen in the women and it is said to be second most leading cause of death among women due to cancer. As throughout the rest of the world, the prevalence around the world has been increasing day by day. Regarding the surgical process, the modified radical mastectomy was referred to as the most common method of surgery which is 63% and rest of the breast conserving surgery was said to be second which is 36% (Masi & Gehlert 2009). According to “*World Health Organization Cancer country Profile 2014*”, the incidence of having breast cancer in Ethiopia was mainly reported to be more than 12956 which contributes to more than 24.4% of the total deaths (Olasehinde et al., 2019). Even if there is an adequate data which is lacking within the trends of the breast cancer in Ethiopia, it has been recognized by some of the authors that it is increasing steadily in the country. It has been seen that only 1% of the patients have been suffering from radical mastectomy. Mastectomy is said to be surgical treatment used for the breast cancer, which results in the permanent change towards the women appearance. The breast is considered as the main identity for the women and for several cultures. It shows the sexuality, femininity, motherhood, beauty as well as feeding the infants (Abebe et al., 2020). The main loss for all these attributes might lead towards having negative change within the image of the body.

The racial different within the quality of the treatment for the well documented. As an instance, as compared to the white counterparts, the reports of African American breast cancer patients shows fewer conversations along with the physician which is about what to expect during the process of treatment, the rationale for radiation therapy and chemotherapy as well as risk of having the recurrence of the tumor and the appearance of the post treatment as well breast conserving surgery. These differences might explain about the African-American women that are more likely to receive

the first course about the radiation and surgical treatment which will not be able to meet the “National Comprehensive Cancer Network standard” which are less likely to receive the adjuvant treatment which consists of the radiation therapy which follows the conserving therapy, receptor negative tumors, chemotherapy as well as the hormonal therapy for the tumors of hormone (Abebe et al., 2020).

## Research Aims

The aim of the research is to analyse the perception of American men on the women who underwent through the treatment of breast cancer which is mastectomy.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the research are

- To analyse issues of breast cancer and importance of mastectomy
- To determine the main issue faced by the women after mastectomy
- To analyse the perception of the African men for the women underwent mastectomy

## Research Questions

The primary research question is

- What is the perception of the African men on the women who underwent through the treatment of breast cancer which is mastectomy?

The secondary RQs are

- What is the importance of Mastectomy?
- What are the issues faced by women after Mastectomy?

- What are the perception of African men on women who went through Mastectomy?

## *Literature Review*

### *Mastectomy*

In Nigeria, it has been said that Mastectomy is common type of surgical treatment for the breast cancer. Women often used to present with having the large tumors, while hindering the main option for the conservation of the breast (Olasehinde et al., 2019). This delay might be linked partially with the fear of undergoing with mastectomy. For several people, it has been seen that female breast is said to be the main symbol for the femininity. It is said to be essential organ for rearing the child (Soni et al., 2017).

While undergoing with the mastectomy at the very young age might interfere with the Quality of Life as well as having the overall accomplishment for the women (Ussher et al., 2015). These are the ideas that might be responsible for the mastectomy fear which will make some of the women to delay or to refuse the treatment. However, the traditional outcomes like survival and recurrence, is said to be the growing interest within the QOL for the patients with having the breast cancer (Kim et al., 2017). There are only some studies that have looked mainly towards the QOL for the young women. It has been seen that breast is mainly considered as the main attribute for the maternity, femininity as well as sign of sexuality. If it the women loses as the remedy for the breast cancer then it affect the quality of life for the women (Telli & Gürkan 2020). When going through the life of a women after having the mastectomy, all the main spheres of the daily functioning might be taken into account which consists of cognitive, physical, social wellbeing and being emotional.

### *Ecological perspective*

The ecological perspective shows the theory of an ecological conceptual framework which shows the interaction between the individuals as well as their socio-cultural and physical environment (Soni et al., 2017). It has been based on this concept the individual mainly the women living in Nigeria-Africa health care behavior is mainly influenced through the physical environment variables, social determinants of the health and the intrapersonal variables as well as some other social determinants related to the health of the women (Özaydın et al., 2020). The gender social relationship and family dynamics impact on the women in Africa with their health care practices and social choices.

#### *Changes to sexuality after cancer*

With the survival rate of the cancer at the 5 years has currently more than 60%, while increasing the numbers of an individual person who are living with the Breast cancer disease which leads to the focus for surviving a quality of life as well as to live with their families (Masi & Gehlert 2009). The sexual wellbeing is said to be the central component for the quality of life and thus there has been growing body of the research that shows the association between the intimacy and sexuality and the cancer (Kim et al., 2017). These changes have lead towards the essential distress which is said to be in some of the instances that can be experienced as most of them are said to be difficult aspect for living a life for the women who has been suffering from the breast cancer.

The research shows the changes to the sexuality just after the cancer has main focus on the cancers that will affect directly to the reproductive or sexual body (Akanbi et al., 2016). It has been seen that the sexual changes of the women with cancer has main focus on the impact of treatments that has on their sexual life which consists of the anatomical changes, vaginal pain, tiredness as well

as negative feels for the sexual attractiveness as well changes within the sense of the femininity. This has result in the reduction within the sexual desire as well as response which leads towards the decreased sex frequency and lack of the sexual satisfaction or pleasure (Arroyo & López 2011).

There has been increasing evidence that several patients with cancer will not directly affect the reproductive or sexual body and they can experience a decrease in the sexual activity and sexual interest with the changes to the image of the body as well as feelings of the sexual competency and sexual dysfunction as well as the alterations to the self-esteem of a women (Abebe et al., 2020). As an instance, researchers have stated that sexual changes among the people with lymphatic, head and neck, colon, bladder, colorectal as well as lung cancers. Although, the interventions to ameliorate the effect of the sexual changes that have been largely which is focused on the reproductive or sexual cancers as well as health professionals that have been reported to be less likely in order to discuss the sexual changes with couples or individuals experiencing a cancer which is non-productive (Abebe et al., 2020). This has suggested with the sexual concerns and needs of those experiencing a very broad range if the non-reproductive cancers that might not be addressed or acknowledged. There is required for having the further research in order to examine the subjective and nature experiences for the changes that occur within the sexuality among both men and women all over the range of the cancer types (Olasehinde et al., 2019).

#### *Relationship with Sexual Life and Husband*

For some of the women who has been living in Africa stated about their spouses relate to the need for the mastectomy which was the first challenge for them (Arroyo & López 2011). It has been seen that a women who was 39 year old has been asked why didn't she tell her husband about the mastectomy till the day of the operation. This is because men doesn't feel good and then there is a

lack of intimacy with the women who doesn't have breast at all. The men should be given with the limited information by the doctors as stated by the women (Özaydın et al., 2020).

According to Wellish et al. 1978, the sexual partners or spouses of approximately more than 31 women with having the breast cancer and they have observed that more than 35.7% thought that the relationship with the partners get worse when they had the mastectomy. Moreover, the sex as well as intimate relationship is said to have adverse reactions. According to Meyerowitz et al (1999) that approximately 863 women that have breast cancer and thus they revealed that there is a hormonal changes as well as vaginal dryness and they have obstacle of the interpersonal association with their partners which is said to be another significant factor that is involved within the impact of the breast cancer on the sex.

#### *Social Life and Body Image change*

The women statements in the study conducted by Koçan and Gürsoy (2016) shows that there is a loss of the breast that has affected the relationship with the husbands and they are worried about their own negative image of the body. The women who had gone through mastectomy were mainly concerned about the changes in their appearances that might impact in a negative way to their sex lives. Mastectomy has very negative affect on relationship between wife and husband and thus it impact on the association with the children. Several studies have shown that after women had went through mastectomy, the women wanted to appear a very stronger reactions for their own children. Some of them have even placed the prostheses in the brazier for hiding the loss of their breast (Abebe et al., 2020).

After the loss of the breast, some of the women wanted to avoid the social interactions due to their appearance as well as some felt to avoid the social situations. In several countries it has been reported that there is a negative impact of mastectomy on the social life of the women. The patients' needs social, medical as well as psychological support from the men during the treatment and after having the treatment for the cancer (Masi & Gehlert 2009). It has been analyzed the information related to the feelings and thoughts are contributed towards the appearance in the women who had mastectomy. This will mainly guide in order to assist the team of healthcare in developing the ways that will help the patients which will become much more attuned towards their experiences and thus to discover the appropriate methods to cope up with the new reality of the women in their lives (Olasehinde et al., 2019).

### *Gaps within Literature*

There are several gaps within the literature as there is a very less information available about the African men perspective related to the breast cancer treatment which is mastectomy. Moreover, there is no comparison between different perspectives of racial differences.

### ***Methodology***

#### *Research Design*

The research is based on the developing the research design which will be used in overall research. Secondary research or Desk research is said to be the research methods that usually involves in using the already existing data. The existing data is mainly summarized as well as it is collated in order to increase the effectiveness of overall research. The secondary research consists of the research material that are published within the research reports as well as their documents. These



of the documents are available within the public libraries, data gathered from different surveys filled as well as websites. Secondary research consists of the government as well as non-government agencies that can store the data which can be used for the purpose of research and thus it can be retrieved from them easily (Abebe et al., 2020). The secondary research is said to be cost effective as compared to the primary research as it makes up to use the existing data for the collection of content. The paper will be based on using the data from secondary data collection. However, the qualitative research approach will be used in the paper. Qualitative data is focused on gather the data in form of quality content. It involves collecting as well as analyzing the non-numerical data such as video, text as well as audio in order to understand the opinions, concepts or the experiences of the people. It can be used in order to gather the problems deeply as well as helps to generate the new ideas for the research (Arroyo & López 2011).

#### *Data collection*

The data will be collected from different journals and articles available on the electronic database. The keywords have been used for the search strategy such as “breast cancer, mastectomy, male, female, women breast, chemotherapy, perception, African men, intimacy, Sexual life”. The data which is published in English language will be used only rest of the papers published in any other language will be discarded.

#### Timeline

Activities	1 <sup>st</sup> Month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Month	4 <sup>th</sup> Month	5 <sup>th</sup> Month	6 <sup>th</sup> Month
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Proposal Approval	■					
Finalizing the team	■					
Introduction		■				
Literature search		■				
Methodology			■			
Analysis				■		
Conclusion					■	
Research approval						■

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