

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Decision Regret Regarding Treatments among Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer: A Systematic Review Protocol.
AUTHORS	Liu, Jing; Hunter, Sharyn; Zhu, Jiemin; Lee, Regina; Chan, Sally

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Zhang, Lingli Sichuan University
REVIEW RETURNED	08-Nov-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	In this article, the author does not mention how to assess or measure the level of decision regret among the women with ESBC. Maybe, different studies use different methods. It would be good to give us a brief overview of the current methods.
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REVIEWER	Materazzo, Marco Policlinico Tor Vergata University
REVIEW RETURNED	08-Nov-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Dear Authors,</p> <p>first of all, I would like to congratulate you on the interesting topic which I believe fulfills the criteria for publication in BMJ Open. Regarding the manuscript, I believe minor revisions are needed to improve this manuscript.</p> <p>As stated in the introduction, good prognosis of EBC requires physicians understand the decision making process of patients to promote the best tailored treatment upon patients to improve QoL. Here's some points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-I suggest to use the acronym EBC as Early breast cancer, instead of ESBC.- I really appreciated the removal of studies regarding the risk-reducing treatment, but I suggest to cite in the reference the reviews regarding risk reducing surgery or reconstructive surgery.- I would suggest to cite some other paper regarding decision making process in breast cancer treatment (DOI: 10.1007/s10549-018-4865-0; DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11957; DOI: 10.1002/pon.5545)
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Response to Reviewers #1:

Prof. Lingli Zhang, Sichuan University

Q1. In this article, the author does not mention how to assess or measure the level of decision regret among the women with ESBC. Maybe, different studies use different methods. It would be good to give us a brief overview of the current methods.

Response:

Thank you for the comment. We have included examples of instruments measuring levels of decision regret in the section of “Outcome Measures” as below (page 10 of the manuscript):

“Levels of decision regret was measured using different methods across the studies. For example, decision regret was measured using the validated 5-item, 5-point Likert Decision Regret Scale in Advani et al.’s (2019) study. Researchers in this study considered scores 1, 2 and 3 as feeling regret, while 4 and 5 indicated no regret 14. Martinez et al. (2013) revised the items of the Decision Regret Scale. In this study, the ratings of each item were summed up as total scores ranging from 0 to 20, where higher scores indicated higher levels of regret 28. Regret was also measured by a single-item dichotomous choice question in Yamauchi et al.’s (2019) study, in which women were asked to indicate “having no regret” or “having some regret” about breast cancer treatments 29.”

Response to Reviewers #2:

Dr. Marco Materazzo, Policlinico Tor Vergata University

Q1. Dear Authors, first of all, I would like to congratulate you on the interesting topic which I believe fulfills the criteria for publication in BMJ Open. Regarding the manuscript, I believe minor revisions are needed to improve this manuscript. As stated in the introduction, good prognosis of EBC requires physicians understand the decision making process of patients to promote the best tailored treatment upon patients to improve QoL.

Response:

We appreciate your encouragement and valuable comments.

Q2. Here's some points: -I suggest to use the acronym EBC as Early breast cancer, instead of ESBC.

Response:

Thanks for the suggestion. We have changed all “ESBC” into “EBC” (See manuscript document).

Q3. I really appreciated the removal of studies regarding the risk-reducing treatment, but I suggest to cite in the reference the reviews regarding risk reducing surgery or reconstructive surgery.

Response:

Thank you for your comments. Following your suggestion, we have included the citations of these reviews in the section of “Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria” as below (page 9-10 of the manuscript):

“Studies regarding risk-reducing treatment (e.g., contralateral prophylactic mastectomy) and reconstructive surgery will be excluded because there have been three published reviews specifically addressing these surgeries 19 25 26.”

Q4. I would suggest to cite some other paper regarding decision making process in breast cancer treatment (DOI: 10.1007/s10549-018-4865-0; DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11957; DOI: 10.1002/pon.5545)

Response:

We appreciate your recommendations. We carefully studied them and found that they were of great value for understanding patient's decision-making experience about breast cancer treatments. We have cited them in the "Introduction" section to enrich the rationale of conducting this review:

"Reviews summarizing evidence about patients' decision-making about breast cancer treatments have been published 22 23. However, they have not specifically addressed the issue of regret about treatment decisions, and were not able to generalize to the whole population because these reviews only included older women 22 and women who had a mastectomy 23."

(Reference No. 22 is the paper DOI: 10.1007/s10549-018-4865-0; page 6 of the manuscript)

"Negative emotions, such as fear, can further complicate the decision-making about breast cancer treatments 8 9."

(Reference No. 9 is the paper DOI: 10.21873/invivo.11957; page 5 of the manuscript)

"therefore, it is important to empower these women to make treatment decisions for themselves to achieve "shared decision-making" in breast cancer care 6 7."

(Reference No. 7 is the paper DOI: 10.1002/pon.5545; page 5 of the manuscript)

We would like to express our appreciation to editors and reviewers' valuable comments on our manuscript. We would be happy to answer any further questions.

Wish you all the best!

Reference cited in the response letter:

(Ranked in the order where they were cited in the manuscript text)

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28. Martinez KA, Li Y, Resnicow K, et al. Decision Regret following Treatment for Localized Breast Cancer: Is Regret Stable Over Time? *Medical Decision Making* 2015;35(4):446-57.
29. Yamauchi K, Nakao M, Nakashima M. Correlates of regret with treatment decision-making among Japanese women with breast cancer: results of an internet-based cross-sectional survey. *BMC Women's Health* 2019;19(1):86-86.