

**PP 14: Attitude of post-mastectomy patients towards breast reconstruction**

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**Objectives:** 1. To study the attitudes of post- mastectomy patients in our hospital towards breast reconstruction

2. To assess any change in these attitudes with time

**Method:** Fifty consecutive patients who underwent mastectomy from 01-01-2007 at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka were interviewed at 1 week, 3 months and 1 year postoperatively, using a structured pre-tested questionnaire.

**Results:** None of the patients had considered undergoing immediate breast reconstruction and only one patient had been offered the option. At 3 months 46 (92 %) were wearing improvised external breast prosthesis. 74% of them were happy with the prosthesis and had not thought of reconstruction. The reasons were, not having enough information about the procedure 15/34 (44%), not essential for physical and emotional well being 8/34 (24%), perceiving themselves as being too old for the procedure 7/34 (21%) and fear of undergoing another surgery. Twelve (24%) patients were interested on undergoing a breast reconstruction but had not been offered it. All of them were less than 50 years and had not reached natural menopause. At 1 year 42 (84%) were happy with the prosthesis and had no interest in undergoing breast reconstruction. Out of the 12 who considered breast reconstruction at 3 months three had given up the idea. The reason was that they were not adequately informed and offered the option.

**Conclusions:** None of the patients had undergone breast reconstruction during the period of follow up. Pre-menopausal, younger women had a more positive attitude towards breast reconstruction and this positive attitude had changed with time mainly because the issue was not addressed by health care professionals.