# **EXPERIENCES IN THE RETURN TO WORK OF BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY**





Alejandra Alcaíno-Morales, Cristina Sade-Botto, Sebastién Sepúlveda-Soto, Cinara Sacomori, Paulina Araya-Castro. Universidad del Desarrollo - Instituto Nacional del Cáncer

## BACKGROUND

The aspects that influence the return to work in breast cancer survivors consider:







Health care systems

Economic

Social Preferences

Morbidities

These factors remain understudied in Latin America (1). Is there any difference?



### **PURPOSE**

To explore the experience, barriers and facilitators of returning to work in female breast cancer survivors in **Chile**.

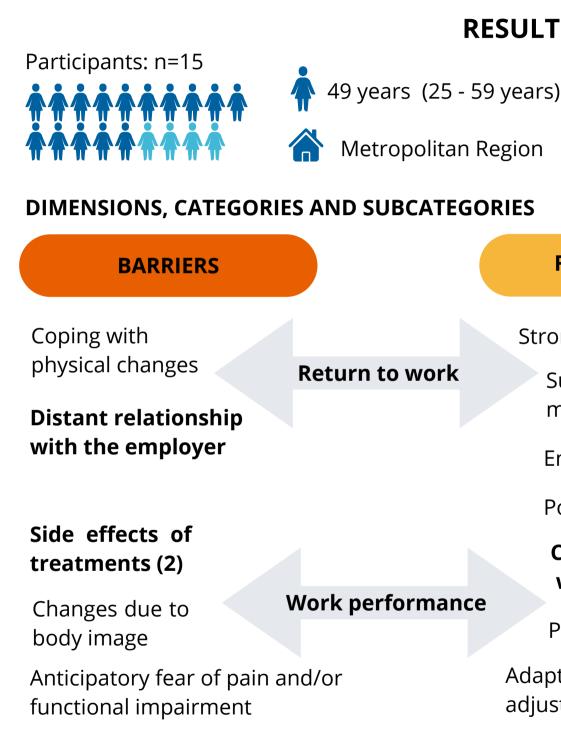
## **METHODS**

Exploratory qualitative study with thematic analysis.



Semi-structured interviews were carried out.





### **CONCLUSION**

It is crucial to provide support and monitoring for women before and during their return to work to optimize this transition, ensuring continuous health care.





## RESULTS

- 66.6% stage II, 86.6% CHT, 73.3% HT ረን
- 73.3% permanent contracts, 53.3% full-time work

### **FACILITATORS**

Strong support network

Support from the mental health team

Enjoyment of work

Positive coping style

### **Close relationship** with the employer

Partnership

Adaptations and adjustments

### **EXPERIENCES**

- The decision to return:
- 1. Discrepancy
- 2. The power of decision
- Motivations:
- 1. Economic
- 2. Self-efficacy
- 3. Longing for normality
- Anxiety and anticipatory fears
- Health Care
- Coordinating job responsibilities with health *care appointments*

### REFERENCES

- 1. Wu W, Yackel HD, Salner A, et al. Work-health balance of cancer survivors returning to work: A meta-ethnography. Eur J Oncol Nurs. 2024;68:102482
- 2.Zomkowski K, Cruz de Souza B, Moreira GM, Volkmer C, Da Silva Honório GJ, Moraes Santos G, Flores Sperandio F. Qualitative study of return to work following breast cancer treatment. Occup Med (Lond). 2019 May 25;69(3):189-194.