

Quality of life varies with breast cancer surgery type

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(HealthDay)—Young breast cancer survivors who undergo more

extensive surgery have worse body image, sexual health, and anxiety compared with women undergoing less extensive surgery, according to a study recently published in *JAMA Surgery*.

Shoshana M. Rosenberg, Sc.D., from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, and colleagues evaluated the associations of different surgery types with quality of life and psychosocial outcomes from one to five years following diagnosis among 826 [young women](#) with [breast cancer](#) undergoing surgery.

Forty-five percent of patients underwent bilateral mastectomy (BM), 31 percent had breast-conserving surgery (BCS), and 24 percent had unilateral mastectomy (UM). The researchers found that the vast majority of women (84 percent) who had BM/UM had reconstruction. Sexuality and [body image](#) were consistently worse (higher adjusted mean scores) among women who had BM versus BCS or UM. Adjusted mean anxiety scores remained higher among women who had BM versus BCS/UM at one, two, and five years. Between-group differences for depression levels were minimal in follow-up.

"Ensuring young women are aware of the short-term and long-term effects of surgery and receive support when making surgical decisions is warranted," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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