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Understanding the factors that influence breast reconstruction decision making in Australian women

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Only 5-30% of women receive reconstruction (12% of Australian women) following mastectomy. Few studies have looked at the reasons why women decide whether or not to have breast reconstruction. Our aim was to identify social and demographic factors that influence Australian women’s decision to have breast reconstruction.

Methods
- Online survey sent to breast cancer patients through Breast Cancer Network Australia
- Multiple Regression Model to identify influential decision making factors

Results
- 501 mastectomy patients completed survey
- 309 (65%) underwent reconstruction
- 45% implant based, 44% Tissue Transfer, 11% Both
- Factors that positively influenced the likelihood of breast reconstruction included bilateral mastectomy, younger age, lower home/work responsibilities and the influence of the plastic-reconstructive surgeon

Conclusions
- Our study demonstrates that social and demographic data can be gathered easily from breast cancer patients and that these factors may significantly influence their decision to undergo breast reconstruction
- This data is important to allow breast cancer patients to make informed and effective decisions about their care.