

# Accepted Manuscript

Does the relationship between health-related quality of life and subjective well-being change over time? An exploratory study among breast cancer patients

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PII: S0277-9536(16)30701-8

DOI: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.12.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.12.021)

Reference: SSM 10962

To appear in: *Social Science & Medicine*

Received Date: 21 January 2016

Revised Date: 5 December 2016

Accepted Date: 16 December 2016

Please cite this article as: Tessier, P., Blanchin, M., Sébille, V., Does the relationship between health-related quality of life and subjective well-being change over time? An exploratory study among breast cancer patients, *Social Science & Medicine* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2016.12.021.

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3 being change over time?

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6 **Word count (including abstract, text, references and tables): 7,963**

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### Abstract

9 It has been suggested recently that measures of Subjective Well-Being (SWB) instead of preferences  
10 could be employed to determine relative weights for the dimensions of health-related quality of life  
11 (HRQoL) with the aim of developing health utility indexes for economic evaluation purposes. In this  
12 context, this paper addresses the possibility of reprioritization response shift in SWB. It examines  
13 whether the association between dimensions of HRQoL and SWB changes over time in chronically ill  
14 patients. 215 women newly diagnosed for breast cancer in a French hospital between 2010 and 2012  
15 completed the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) and the EORTC QLQ-C30 HRQoL questionnaires  
16 over a two-year period. We estimated hierarchical random coefficients models for the repeated SWLS  
17 measures while allowing for time-varying parameters for the scales of the QLQ-C30 to test for  
18 reprioritization. Our findings suggest that women adapt to breast cancer by giving greater weight over  
19 time to the social dimension of HRQoL. This possibility of reprioritization response shift should be  
20 considered in researches trying to develop SWB-based health utility values to inform the allocation of  
21 resources in health care.

22 **Keywords:** France, subjective well-being, health state valuation, response shift, adaptation

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