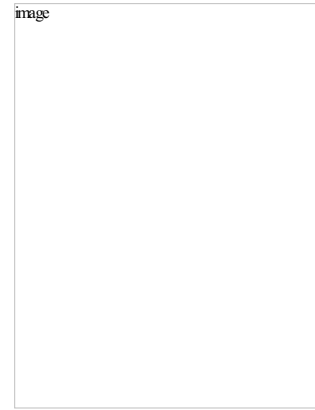


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Physical Symptom Burden and its Association with Distress, Anxiety and Depression in Breast Cancer

Daniel C. McFarland, D.O.¹, Kelly M. Shaffer, Ph.D.², Amy Tiersten, M.D.³, Jimmie Holland, M.D.²

Affiliations:

1. Division of Network Services, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, West Harrison, NY
2. Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
3. Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine, New York, NY

Contact Information:

Daniel C. McFarland, DO

Department of Medicine -Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

500 Westchester Ave

West Harrison, NY 10604

danielcurtismcfarland@gmail.com

Tel#. 914-367-7294 Fax#. 646-227-7283

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Abstract:

Introduction: Physical symptom burden and psychological symptoms are highly prevalent in women with breast cancer. The Distress Thermometer and Problem List (DT&PL) is commonly used in oncology clinics to screen for distress and its accompanying Physical Problem List (PPL) identifies pertinent physical symptoms. However, the identification of physical symptoms found on the PPL has never been evaluated for its association with psychological symptoms in women with breast cancer.

Methods: Patients ($n=125$) with breast cancer (Stage 0-IV) completed the DT&PL and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). They reported bother from any of 22 PPL items on the DT&PL. PPL items were assessed for their associations with distress (DT), anxiety (HADS-A), and depression (HADS-D). The total number of PPL items endorsed per patient was evaluated for associations with psychological outcomes, controlling for relevant demographic factors.

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