HAVING CHILDREN IN SURVIVORSHIP: ARE WOMEN CANCER PATIENTS POSITIVELY MOTIVATED TO PRESERVE THEIR FERTILITY?

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Today cancer is no longer synonymous of death. Clinicians are now focused not only in life preservation, but also on the promotion of the quality of life in survivorship. Pregnancy after cancer is one of these concerns, considering that cancer treatments-related infertility is a possibility and that patients are now more likely to be in a reproductive age and to not have their parental project fully completed. Therefore, decision-making process about fertility preservation can be done before the cancer treatments. However, this is a challenging process, especially for women, as it needs to be done quickly taking in consideration several variables.

The literature is scarce and it lacks information about the individual factors that can influence this decision-making process, such as the motivations for fertility preservation of the female patients. This work aimed to characterize the positive and negative motivations for fertility preservation of female cancer patients and to describe their perceptions about having children in survivorship.

Women in reproductive age, diagnosed with cancer, followed in the first Portuguese public centre for fertility preservation, completed a self-report form, to assess the motivations for fertility preservation and the perceptions about having children after the disease. Note that this study is part of a project that has just begun and the sample is still being recruited, so we will only be able to present results at the time of the congress. Considering this, it is hoped to support the inclusion of the patients’ informed fertility preservation decision making in the clinical routines.