

**Valuing the SF-6D using subjective well-being:
An exploration of the role of experience in long-term breast cancer survivors**

Philippe Tessier

SPHERE (U1246), Université de Nantes & Université de Tours

Abstract

Subjective well-being (SWB), how people think and feel about their situation, is increasingly regarded as a relevant source to inform decision-makers and help them allocate resources efficiently. Some scholars suggested patients' SWB could be used in place of the public's preferences for the valuation of health states. However, little is known on how these measures may capture the nature of the experience borne by patients. This paper presents a valuation exercise of the SF-6D measure of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in a sample of breast cancer survivors with the objective to i) determine if the correlation between dimensions of the SF-6D and SWB changes whether the women have undergone a mastectomy or not and, ii) whether mastectomy has consequences on SWB other than those passing through changes in the levels of the dimensions of the SF-6D. It uses a cross-sectional sample of 337 women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer more than five years ago. Multiple regression models were fitted for cognitive (life satisfaction) and affective (positive, negative, and overall) measures of SWB on dimensions of the SF-6D and interaction terms combining these dimensions with a dummy variable for mastectomy. The estimations show that the SWB of long-term breast cancer survivors is highly correlated with mental health and vitality, but not with physical health and pain. Women who had undergone mastectomy weigh the dimensions of the SF-6D differently than those who had not. Besides, mastectomy has a deleterious effect on both life satisfaction and overall affective well-being even when dimensions of the SF-6D are controlled for. Overall, our analyses suggest that the consequences of patients' lived experience for their well-being go beyond changes in the levels of the dimensions of HRQoL. This finding questions the relevancy of the common practice of health state valuation based on a fixed weighted summation of the dimensions of HRQoL.

Keywords: cancer, sf-6d, subjective well-being