

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A:

Comment 1:

Very interesting paper and highly relevant to reconstructive surgeons both within the US and in other countries. I would recommend publication with only very minor revisions:

Table 1 needs editing as the layout is confusing. The contents are however fine.

Reply 1:

Thank you for your comment. We reviewed the manuscript and Table 1 has a similar layout to the other tables in the manuscript. We wanted to ensure that the layout was not distorted depending on what program was used to open the word document. Otherwise we do not see how the layout can be improved given that the layout is identical to the other tables in the manuscript.

Changes in the text: No changes made in the text

Reviewer B:

Comment 1:

The paper is well conceived and written, even though most conclusions are somewhat expected. I would like you to explain in the text why you have excluded patients younger than 40 yo old, considered the recent high number of young women undergoing mastectomy.

Reply 1:

Thank you for your comment. We excluded patients younger than 40 years old because the NCDB suppresses the facility characteristics for those under 40 yo to protect the privacy of the center treating those patients. There is a small number of breast cancer diagnoses in patients under 40yo for any cancer site so suppressing this data makes sure that a breast cancer center cannot be identified.

Changes in the text:

We included this explanation for the exclusion criteria on page 5 lines 114-115.

Comment 2: Furthermore, the impact of age on the choice of reconstruction is evaluated but not discussed at all.

Reply 2:

Thank you for your comment. After completing a literature review we found that older age has been associated with lower rates of breast reconstruction. We found that most women that underwent reconstruction were 40-54 years old at both CoC-NAPBC (59.8%) and CoC-noNAPBC centers (46.6%), however a greater percentage of patients 65-80 years old underwent reconstruction at CoC-NAPBC centers (22.9%) compared to CoC-noNAPBC centers (13.5%). Finally, we found that

patients that were 40-54 years old were more likely to undergo reconstruction for all racial groups.

Changes in the text:

We included the following explanations in the manuscript:

-Most women that underwent reconstruction were 40-54 years old at both CoC-NAPBC (59.8%) and CoC-noNAPBC centers (46.6%), however a greater percentage of patients 65-80 years old underwent reconstruction at CoC-NAPBC centers (22.9%) compared to CoC-noNAPBC centers (13.5%). Page 8 lines 181-184; Page 12 lines 255-259

- Patients that were 40-54 years old were more likely to undergo reconstruction for all racial groups. Page 9 lines 188-189

Comment 3: Furthermore, as plastic surgeon I would be interested in knowing something about the type of reconstruction if implant -based or autologous.

Reply 3:

Thank you for your comment. We agree that the type of reconstruction would be very interesting to review. However, there is a lot of missing data for type of reconstruction in the NCDB and this variable is not accurately represented in the database. Therefore, we decided to omit type of reconstruction in this study.

Changes in the text:

We included an explanation for not including the type of reconstruction on page 5 lines 110-113.