

Table S1 BREAST-Q feedback applicable to all breast surgery patients

Module	Suggested additions	General constructive feedback
Overall BREAST-Q	Ability to fulfill familial duties	Inconsistent tense, present tense would be more appropriate than past tense
	Assessment of community support	Lack of clarity about purpose of survey
	Fear during cancer management	Repeated language of “women” and “breasts” is not inclusive
	Pre-op relationship to breasts/chest	
	Sources of information/education	
	Scarring/keloids	
	Decision-making	
	Assessment of need for additional therapy/PT support	
	Prosthetic use	
	Surgical revision history	
Module 1: psychosocial well-being	Judgement in social settings	Psychosocial well-being is not exclusive to breasts
	Judgement in professional settings	Gender identity is not always tied to breasts
	Support systems	Language is not inclusive
	Not applicable option	Timeframe is unclear
	Accepting of new self	Doesn't capture intended experiences
	Comfort in body	Section assumes what a “normal” female body is. Questions ‘of equal worth to other women’ and ‘normal’ are inappropriate and trigger uncomfortable emotions
	Prosthetics use	Change wording from “feminine” to “comfortable” as femininity is not the goal for all Questions are worded in a way that shows bias towards patients who underwent reconstruction
Module 2: sexual well-being	Dating experiences	Question order is not intuitive
	Desirability	Module is not holistic
	Stimulation	Assumes sexuality is tied to breasts. Many other factors play a larger role
	Willingness to initiate	Is not inclusive of all sexualities
	Breastfeeding	Should come near the end of the survey as it contains sensitive/triggering content
	Not applicable option	
	Pain during intercourse	
	Baseline assessment of sexual engagement	
	Impact of prosthetics on sexual activity	

Table S1 (continued)

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Module	Suggested additions	General constructive feedback
Module 3: cancer worry	Recurrence	Cancer worry never ceases thus this module does not feel productive to patients
	Survivor guilt	Emotionally charged and difficult to read
	Impact on loved ones	Questions should be reframed to reflect totality of cancer treatment
	Complications	Question 25 should be reframed from daily activities to quality of life
	Management of worry	
Module 4: fatigue	Ability to do activities of daily living	Nonspecific
	Sleep changes	Fails to capture longitudinal experience as fatigue is two pronged: post-surgical and long term
		Does not capture emotional fatigue
		Mood is not an appropriate word to use in this module as it doesn't capture the intended experience
		Bandwidth is better phrasing than social life
Module 5: impact on work	Cessation of work	Negative valence assumes experience
	Impact on coworker relationships	Needs expanded definition of work to include obligations such as taking care of kids, running a home, etc.
	Physical appearance at work	Lacks an assessment of the emotional aspect of returning to work, solely focusing on the practical
	Not applicable option	Questions are redundant
	Filed for accommodations/disability	Module is vague about time frame of impact on work
Module 6: physical well-being: chest	Comfortable discussing health with supervisors	
	Common post-operative symptoms: numbness, tightness beyond breast/chest area, cording, itchiness, neurogenic pain, lymphedema, phantom pains, diverting, scarring, erythema, range of motion limitations	Negative valence assumes experience
	Experience of post-operative complications	Doesn't capture longitudinal experience
	Iron bra syndrome	Symptoms are not limited to the chest and often extending to torso and back
	Effects on sleep (side sleeping, stomach, pain, pulling)	Module needs to be consistent in language use of chest over breast
Required PT	Ambivalent about the use of "aesthetic" flat closure, as not all patients find it applicable to their experience	

Table S1 (continued)

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Module	Suggested additions	General constructive feedback
Module 7: satisfaction with breasts	Prosthetics	Adjust to “Being able to wear clothing that you want?” since not all prefer fitted clothing
	Satisfaction with final result	Bra question may/may not be applicable depending on patient
	Needed new clothing/bathing suits/bras	Change language to “chest” or “silhouette”
	Needs a “not applicable” option	Fails to capture emotional impact No assessment of baseline happiness with appearance. Assumes positive prior experience and current negative experience
Module 8: adverse effects of radiation	Expand questions to include effects on muscle, bone, skin pigmentation, skin thinning, nerve damage, scarring, long term effects of radiation	Counseling was not sufficient to prepare patients
	Experience with radiation oncology	Radiation section not applicable for those undergoing prophylactic surgery
	Education on radiation	
Module 9: satisfaction with surgeon	Not applicable option	
	Reconstructive options and risks discussed	Questions require differentiation between breast and plastic surgeon
	Radiation risks discussed	Clarify time frame of satisfaction with surgeon, over several months or several years
	Effective/sufficient communication	
	Individualized treatment plans	
	Provided consistent information	
Modules 10 and 11: satisfaction with medical team and office staff	Was surgeon supportive of your decision	
	Provided post-op resources	
	Availability for follow-up	Unclear which team is referenced (differences exist between medical, nursing, and office teams)
	Did you experience empathy	Staff need to be knowledgeable
	Effective/clear communication	

PT, physical therapy.