ABSTRACT

Background: Cosmesis is an important endpoint of breast conservation therapy (BCT) since it is closely associated with satisfaction and has significant implications in the quality of life of breast cancer survivors. Studies have demonstrated racial disparities in patient satisfaction and cosmesis after BCT. However, most of these have been performed in Caucasian and African American women and few have focused on the Hispanic minority. Objective: To compare the level of satisfaction and cosmetic perception after BCT in Hispanic and Caucasian women. Methods: Hispanic and Caucasian women who underwent BCT at University Hospital (UH) (1999-2004) and at Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC) (2007-2008) were enrolled in the study. Subjects completed a modified Cancer Rehabilitation Evaluation System – Short Form (CARES-SF) questionnaire to ascertain satisfaction after treatment. They also rated their aesthetic outcomes on a four-point scale. Results: The study population consisted of 40 Caucasian and 37 Hispanic women. Hispanics were younger on average (52 vs 63 years, p=<0.001) and more likely to be obese (BMI 28.2 vs 31.8; p=0.02) than Caucasians. Fewer Hispanic women rated their outcome aesthetically good or very good than Caucasians (35.1% vs 82.5%); this difference was significant without propensity adjustment for hospital attended (p<0.001) and not significant with propensity adjustment (p=0.19). Fewer Hispanic women expressed satisfaction with their cosmetic result than Caucasians (64.9% vs 85%) though this difference was marginally significant without (p=0.06) and not significant with (p=0.28) propensity adjustment. Conclusion: Overall, Hispanic women reported a lower level of satisfaction with their cosmetic result after BCT than Caucasians.