

# Self-Perceived quality of life and engagement in daily auditory activity after chemotherapy for breast cancer compared to healthy women.

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## Abstract

Breast cancer is the second most common type of cancer among Brazilian women, and the most commonly used treatment is chemotherapy. Chemotherapy treatments have various side effects, including ototoxicity, which can damage the structures of the inner ear, causing some degree of hearing loss. Hearing loss can be detrimental to communication and/or the performance of daily activities, thereby impacting the quality of life of the affected individuals.

## Objective

Analyze self-perceived quality of life and hearing-related participation restriction in daily activities in women post-breast cancer treatment and compare the results with those of healthy women.

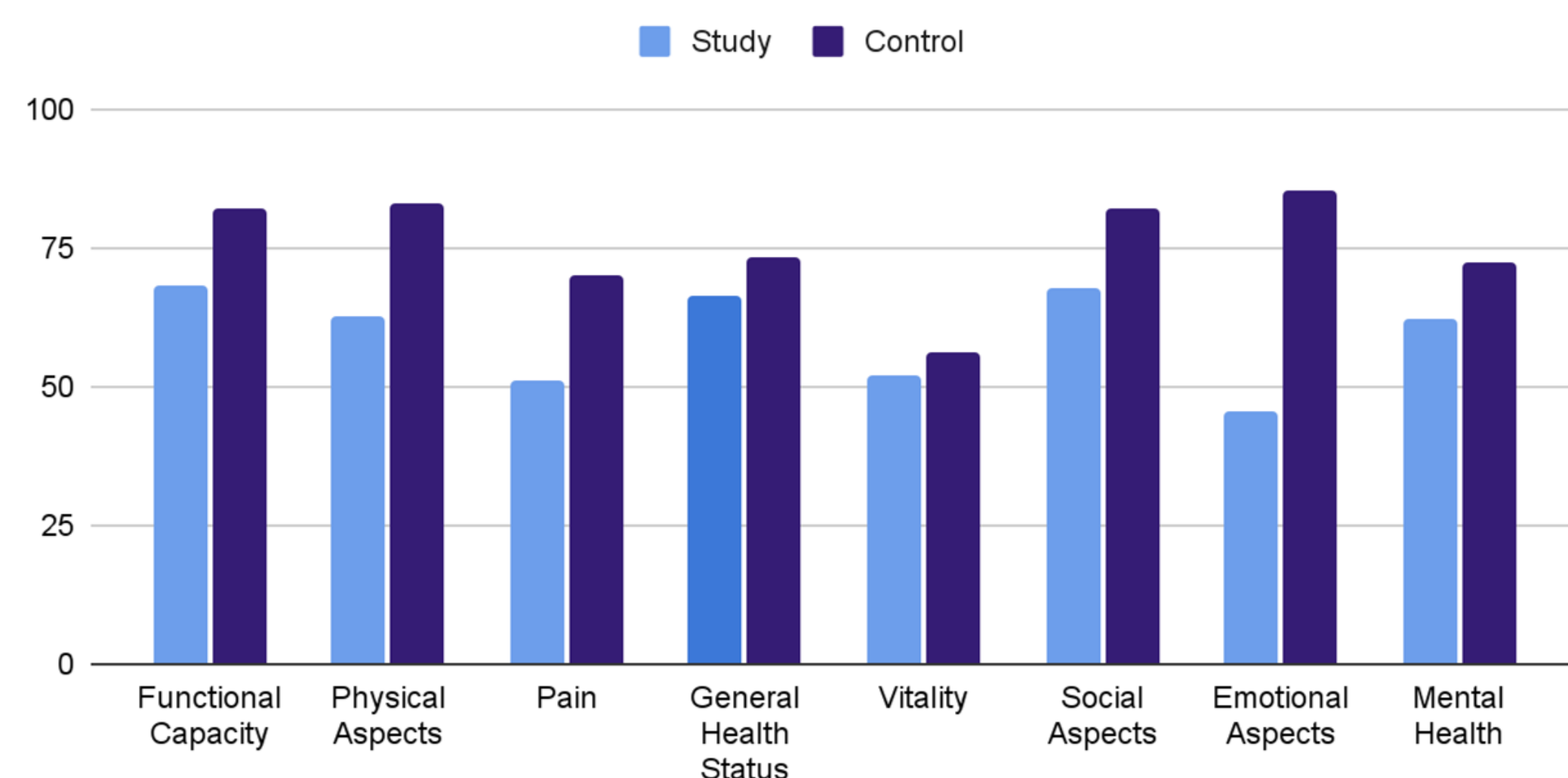
## Methods and Materials

- This is a cross-sectional prospective study involving women aged 18 to 59, divided into two groups: study and control;
- The women answered the SF36 and HHIA questionnaires online;
- The data were subjected to descriptive and inferential analysis.

## Results

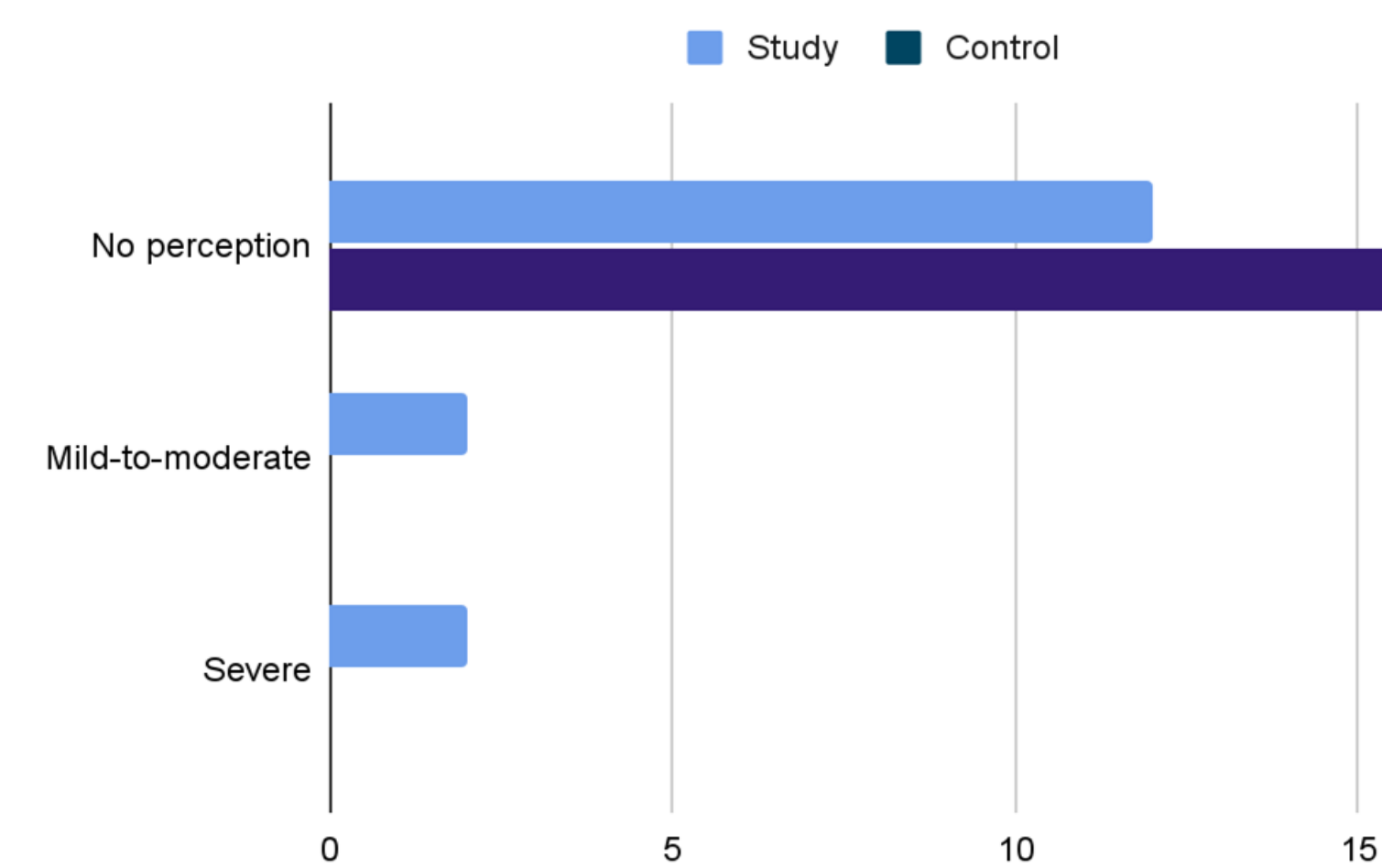
According to the SF-36 questionnaire scores, it was observed that both groups had low scores on the vitality subscale, and in the comparison between the groups, the parameters with the greatest impact were functional capacity, pain, and emotional aspects.

Average score on the SF-36 Questionnaire

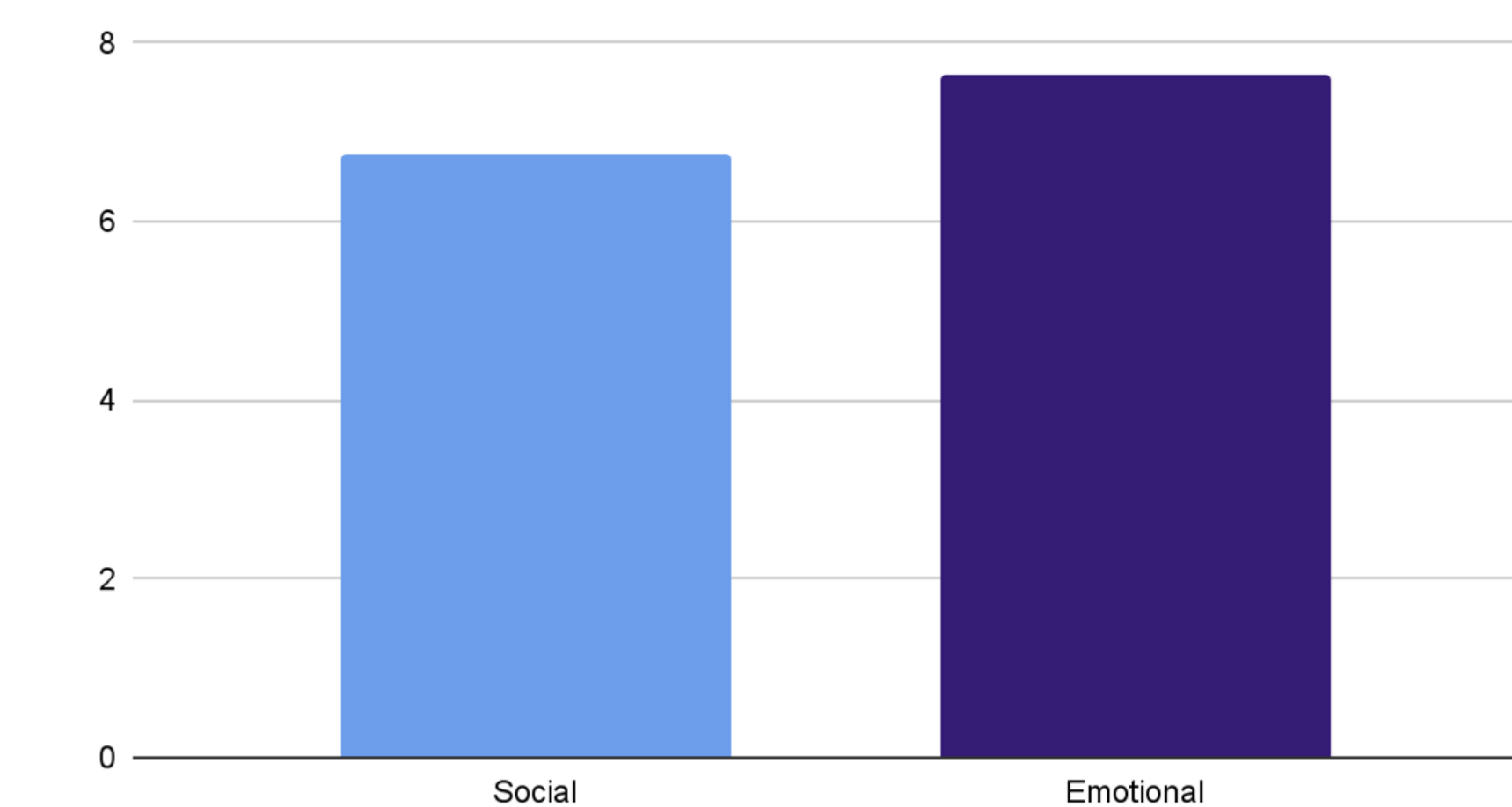


The HHIA results showed that most women did not perceive a hearing handicap in either group, and for the study group, there was a greater handicap in the emotional subscale.

Perception of Hearing Handicap



Score on the HHIA Scales



## Conclusion

Chemotherapy treatments bring side effects that negatively impact the quality of life of women post-breast cancer when compared to healthy women, particularly in the domains of functional capacity, pain, and physical aspects. Regarding auditory aspects, women post-breast cancer show a greater hearing handicap in the emotional subscale of the HHIA, but the results do not show statistically significant differences when compared to those obtained in healthy women.

## References

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