

## News brief

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# Sexual dysfunction in women high after breast cancer

A study of women after breast surgery indicates that high numbers suffer from sexual dysfunction, a conference of cancer experts in Perth was told today (17/11).

The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting was told that of 92 participants in the study, 40% reported problems with sexual interest and 60% with physical sexual functioning. Mood disturbance played a major role in determining who would be affected, but fatigue and demographic features did not.

Research team leader, Dr Kate Webber from University of NSW, said the problems in sexual functioning affected participants' quality of life, including their physical and emotional health, and social functioning.

"Sexual function matters to women after breast cancer, and is important for their overall wellbeing," Dr Webber said. "Interventions designed to address this issue must include identification and treatment of related mood problems."

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