

Appendix 1. Interview Guide

Preamble

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. We are interviewing you to better understand your experiences with breast reconstruction. There are no right or wrong answers to our questions, we are interested in your thoughts and experience with reconstruction so far. You have signed the consent form and are aware of your rights as a participant. The interview should take approximately 60 minutes depending on how much information you would like to share. With your permission, I would like to audio record the interview because I don't want to miss any of your comments. All responses will be kept confidential. This means that only your de-identified interview responses will be shared with research team members and that any information we include in our report will not identify you as the respondent. You may decline to answer any question or stop participating in the interview at any time and for any reason. May I turn on the digital recorder?

Topic One: Support and breast cancer journey

Thank you for agreeing to meet with me today. I'm going to ask you a few questions about your breast cancer journey.

1. Can you tell me briefly about the surgical treatments you have received so far for your breast cancer so I can get a chance to get to know you and your story?
2. How did you find out about the different surgical treatment options?
3. How did you decide between the different surgical treatment options?
 - Prompts: - How was this process?
 - Who or what helped you? (friends/family, information, medical advice)
4. What were the most important factors in your surgical treatment, would you say?
 - Prompts: - Impact on self / body? Impact on life? Impact on work? Cost?
 - Support (Family/friends, hospital personal, fellow breast cancer patients)
 - Choices available? Information provided? Physician opinion?
 - Location of services? Distance from home?

Topic Two: Views of breast reconstruction

We are now going to talk about the option of breast reconstruction.

5. What have you heard/read about BR?
6. Thinking back, when did you first hear about BR?
 - Prompts: Media, Family/friends, colleagues, forums?
7. When did you think about BR as a possibility for you?
8. What do you think about BR in relation to other women?
 - Prompts: - Impact on self? Body? Role in cancer treatment?
9. Do you know any other women who have had BR? How was their experience?

Topic Three: Access to breast reconstruction

10. How would you describe your experience with accessing BR?
 - Prompts: - Timing of discussion and referral of BR
 - Inclusion of BR in the treatment path for breast cancer?
 - Wait time for consultation plastic surgeon? Wait time for operation?
 - Geographic location of surgeon/hospital?
 - Affordability? Cost of procedure? Time off work?

11. If you had had difficulty accessing BR, how would that have impacted you?
12. (If interested in BR) What did you do once you decided you were interested in BR?
 - Prompts: - Who did you reach to? What was their reaction?
 - Support from family/friends/surgeon/health care worker?

Wrap-up

Is there anything else that I haven't asked you about BR that you think would be important to share? If I have additional questions or would like to clarify something, can I reach out to you? I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on BR with me.