

Exploring physical self-perceptions, body image, and athletic identity with breast cancer survivors: Do age, BMI, or treatment characteristics matter?

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The purpose of this study was to examine: (i) strength of associations among physical self-perceptions, body image, and athletic identity; (ii) personal and treatment characteristic differences with physically active breast cancer survivors. 470 survivors involved in a dragon boat program (M age=57.10, SD=7.95; M BMI=25.79; SD=4.13) completed a survey assessing athletic identity (Brewer et al., 1993), body image (MBSRQ; Cash, et al, 1986), and physical self-concept (PSDQ; Marsh et al., 1994). Reported treatments included mastectomy with reconstruction (20.2%) or without (31.1%), and chemotherapy (57%). Moderate to strong relationships were noted, with coordination and strength perceptions and body image having strong links to physical self-esteem. When controlling for years since treatment, there were significant ($p < .05$) main effects on physical self-perceptions for BMI: $F(11, 418)=8.38$, $ES=.18$, and age: $F(11, 430)=2.37$, $ES=.06$, and an interaction for mastectomy status by years since treatment: $F(11, 429)=1.69$, $ES=.04$. There were main effects on body image for BMI: $F(5, 424)=21.54$, $ES=.20$, and chemotherapy: $F(5, 437)=2.44$, $ES=.03$. There were no main or interaction effects on athletic identity. Findings suggest implications for advancing measurement and theory.