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Impacts of late screening and diagnosis of breast cancer: an integrative literature review

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Objective: To analyze the impacts of late screening and diagnosis of breast cancer and its implications for medicine and women's health. **Methods:** This is an integrative review, carried out between February and March 2025, on the following databases: Virtual Health Library (VHL), MEDLINE/PubMed (via the National Library of Medicine), Scopus, and Web of Science Core Collection (Clarivate Analytics). Cross-sectional, cohort, or case-control studies published in the last five years were considered. The studies were independently selected by two reviewers using the Rayyan[®] literature review manager. **Results:** Fifty-eight of the 186 studies identified were duplicates. Ninety-three were excluded for not meeting the eligibility criteria, resulting in 35 articles. Late screening and diagnosis had a negative impact on women's health, such as psychological and clinical consequences, lower adherence to treatment, higher risk of metastasis due to diagnosis at an advanced stage, more aggressive treatments, worse prognosis, lower survival, increased risk of mortality, and higher costs for health services. **Conclusion:** The impacts shown could support the actions of managers and professionals in terms of efficient care and holistic monitoring, as well as improving indicators, reducing costs for health services, and increasing the quality of life of women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Keywords: breast neoplasms; delayed diagnosis; mass screening; women's health.