

PICC during preoperative chemotherapy - Frequency of thrombosis and impact on everyday life

Conclusion

Due to the limited number of thrombotic events, it is not possible to draw conclusions about modifiable risk factors based on our data. We will continue to include additional patients to obtain more robust data. Questionnaire responses indicated that the PICC had limited negative impact on everyday life.

Introduction

Patients receiving preoperative chemotherapy for breast cancer have an increased risk of thrombosis due to the cancer itself, the treatment, and the use of a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC). The aim of this study was to investigate the incidence of PICC-related arm thrombosis, potential modifiable risk factors, and to explore patients' experiences of having a PICC, including the extent to which they were physically active.

Methods

Patients who received preoperative chemotherapy for breast cancer between November 2022 and May 2024 were asked to participate in the study. In total 113 patients were included.

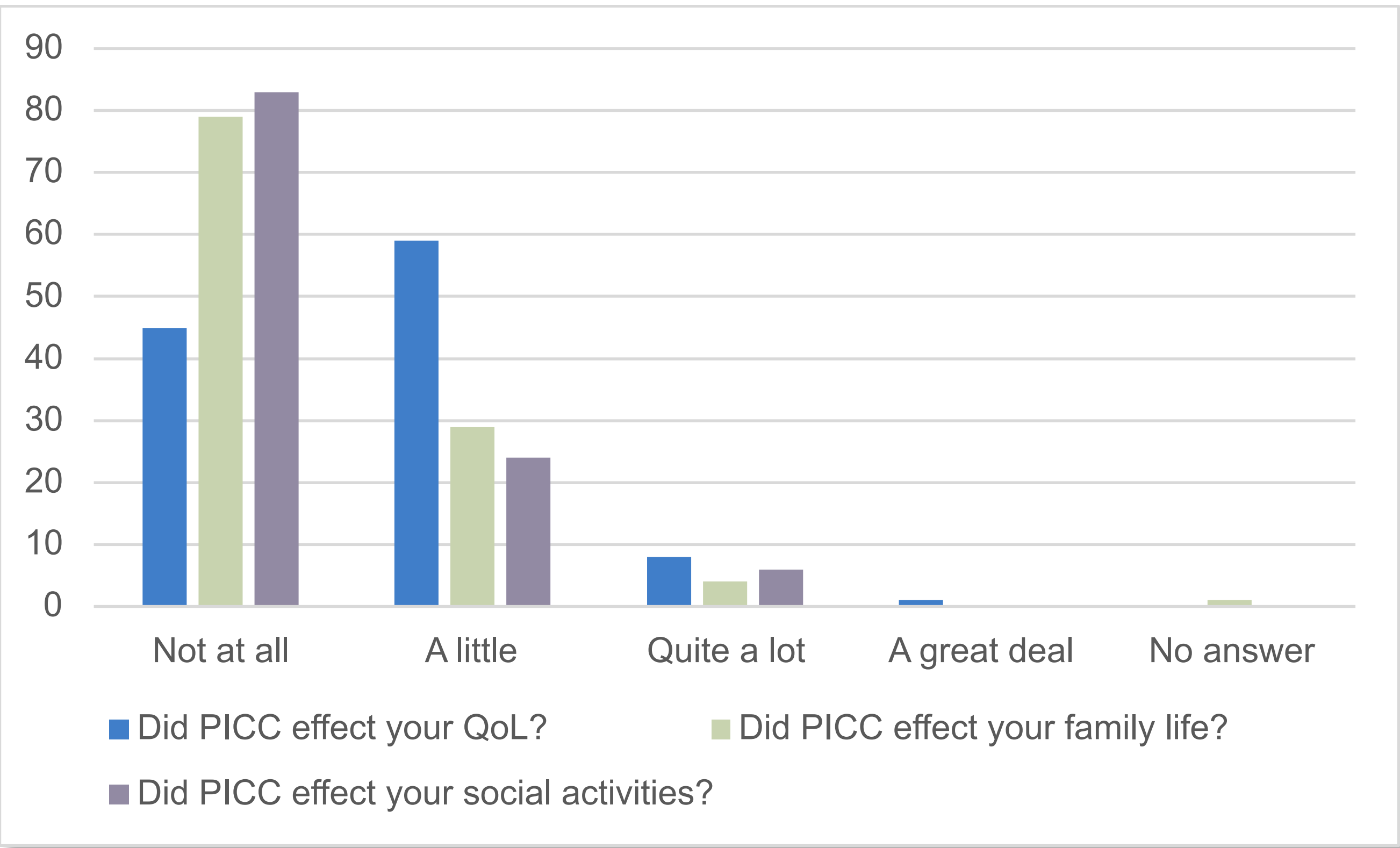
Data extracted from medical records included catheter position, number of needlestick at PICC-insertion, catheter to vein ratio, wich arm that was used for insertion and if the patient were right- or lefthanded. We also searched for any ultrasound verified thrombotic event treated with anticoagulant.

The participants completed a questionnaire addressing physical activity during treatment and whether their quality of life or social life was affected by the PICC. The participants completed a questionnaire addressing physical activity during treatment and whether their quality of life or social life was affected by the PICC, with a response rate of 94%.

Results

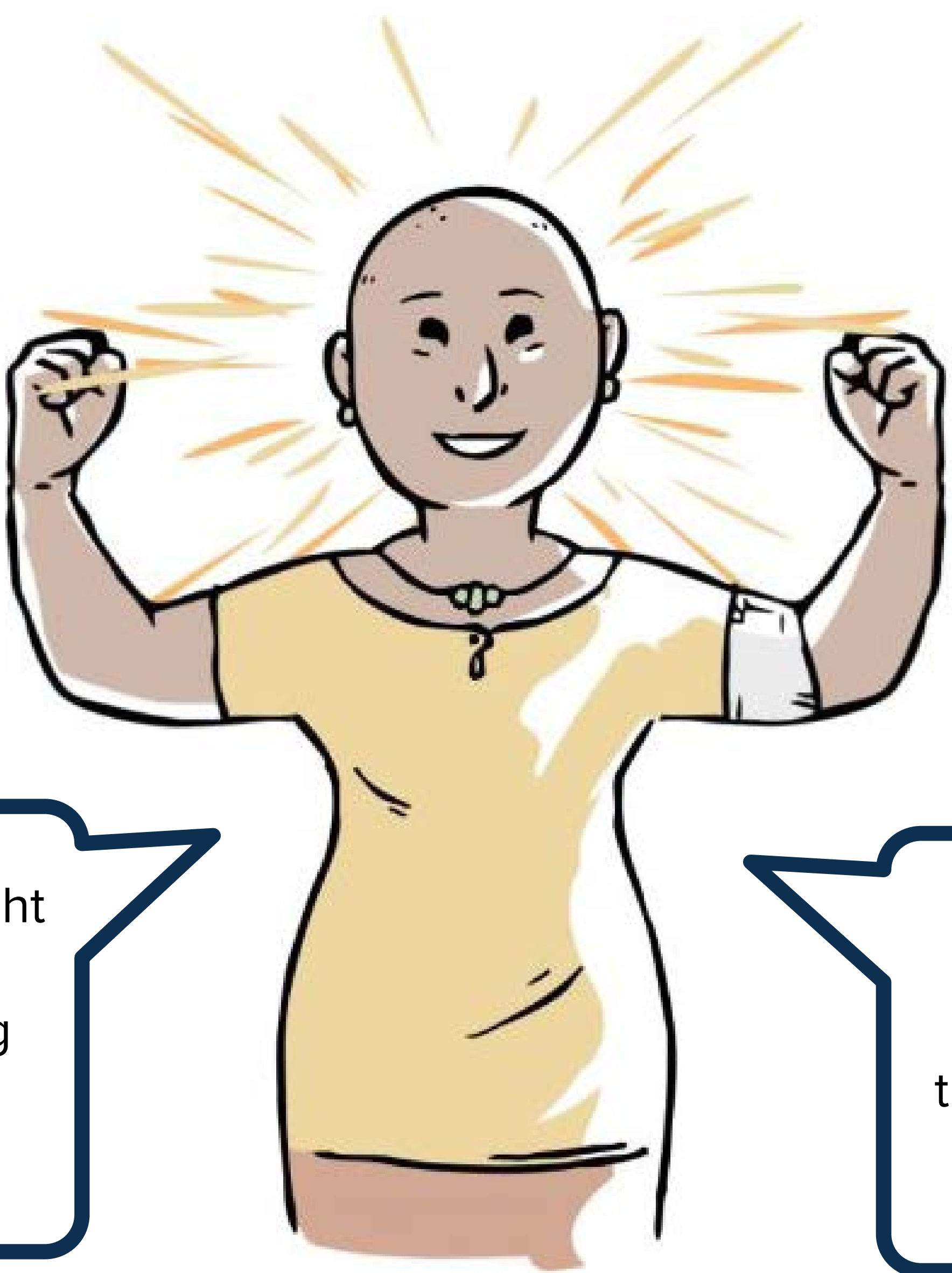
- 8 % (10/113) received anticoagulant treatment for a PICC related thrombotic event
- 5/48 with a PICC in the left arm and 5/65 with a PICC in the right arm developed thrombosis
- Mean number of needle sticks: 1.44 (range 1–4) (1.00 with thrombosis)
- Mean catheter to vein ratio: 27% (26% with thrombosis)
- Median time to thrombosis: 59 days (range 6–112)
- Patients reported minor impact on everyday life

Number of participants reporting different levels of impact on everyday life



Strength training and floorball went well until other side effects made me stop.

I could not swim as usual but I came up with alternative ways of being in the water and not getting the arm wet.



My daughter thought it was scary and didn't want to hug me or look at my arm.

I was disappointed that I couldn't go swimming or use the sauna, and I also experienced some itching.

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Author:

E Ryd-Ausén, P Ganeo, M Gustavsson, E Järlebark, T Persson, L Rühmkorff, J Stenkivist, J Bergqvist, Dep of Surgery and Oncology, Capio S:t Görans Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

Contact:

Elisabeth Ryd-Ausén, Specialist Nurse, elisabeth.ryd-ausen@capiostgoran.se