

Cancer: Implementation of a Value-Based Care Pathway and Its Outcomes

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INTRODUCTION

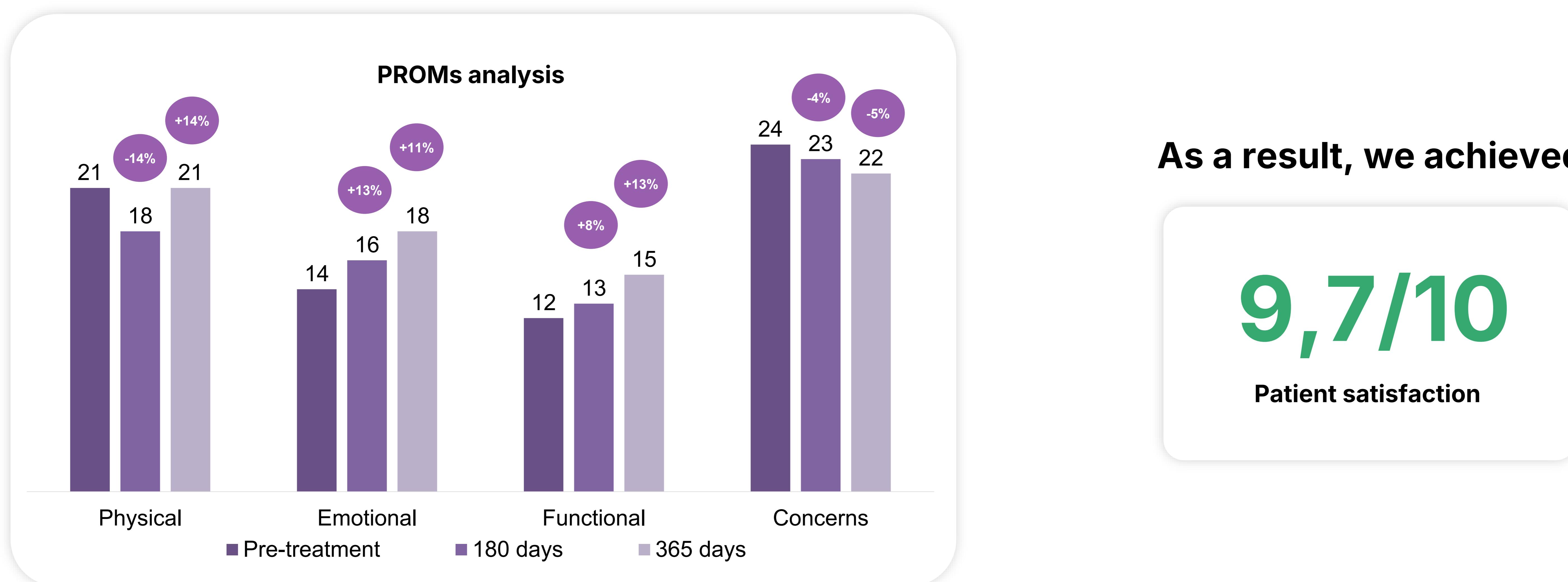
Breast cancer remains a global public health challenge requiring integrated, patient-centered strategies. In response, a structured care pathway was introduced in 2023, prioritizing timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and coordinated follow-up, all embedded in VBHC principles. The model was designed to standardize care, reduce unnecessary interventions, and promote equity, while fostering patient engagement and individualized care through the use of PROMs and continuous oncology navigation.

METHODS

Between June 2023 and December 2024, 47 patients diagnosed with breast cancer were enrolled in the pathway. The care flow included critical phases: early detection, rapid diagnosis, integrated treatment, and longitudinal follow-up coordinated by a nurse navigator. Patients were evaluated using the FACT-B and EQ-5D-3L questionnaires at baseline, 30, 180, and 365 days post-consultation, with follow-up planned annually for five years. Interventions were tailored to PROMs results and included referrals to multidisciplinary, nutritional, and psychological services, regardless of insurance limitations. Patient engagement was monitored by adherence to scheduled follow-ups.

RESULTS

The PROMs analysis indicated significant improvements in quality of life. Physical well-being declined by 14% at 180 days, reflecting treatment effects, but returned to baseline (+14%) by 365 days. Emotional well-being improved steadily (+13% at 180 days and +11% at 365 days), likely influenced by psychological support. Functional well-being showed sustained gains (+8% and +13%, respectively), reinforcing autonomy and recovery. Concerns decreased by 4% at 180 days and -5% at 365 days. Patient satisfaction remained high (9.7/10), and follow-up adherence reached 100%. The structured model also enabled optimization of healthcare resources, reducing redundant procedures and promoting sustainable care.



CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Breast Cancer Care Pathway has demonstrated its efficacy in improving clinical outcomes and patient experience while ensuring sustainable healthcare delivery. By structuring care through value-based bundles and integrating patient navigation and PROMs, this model offers a replicable framework for humanized, equitable, and high-value oncological care.

Patients involved in the Breast Cancer Care Pathway provided written informed consent to participate. The data collected were used exclusively for monitoring and improving the quality of care, in accordance with ethical standards.

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