Breast Cancer and Mammography in Northern Mexico

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Conclusion
The findings show that women with low and middle socioeconomic status belong to different social subgroups (demographic, socioeconomic, cultural). The identification of existing population subgroups will help breast cancer prevention using programs tailored for specific Mexican regions. Awareness, accessibility and attendance to BCa care should be a priority.

Introduction
In Mexico, epidemiological documentation concerning breast cancer (BCa) is fragmentary or missing. In general, attendance to mammography is low, and as a diagnostic tool and not as a screening instrument. This results in late intervention at more advanced stage BC in 60-80% of the diagnosed cases.

Purpose
To improve BCa health policies and educate decision makers in Mexico about BCa prevention programs, specifically tailored for the diverse Mexican regions in regard to existing populations subgroups.

Patients and methods
This was a cross-sectional study involving 1066 women from the Monterrey Metropolitan area in Northern Mexico. Women aged 40-79 years with low income (LI) and middle income (MI) (50/50), were questioned about BCa, and their social/cultural background possibly impacting attendance to mammography. A descriptive and multivariable statistical analysis was done.

Results
The mean age was 50 years and less than 28% had high school education (low income group). In the middle-income group, 42% had university education. Thirty percent from both groups had never attended mammography. The principal reason not to attend mammography was not being able to afford the cost. Another important factor for not attending was fatalism connected with religious faith.

Principal Component.
Explained variance= 95.97%