

EXAMINATION OF MOTIVATION FOR AND ABSENCE FROM BREAST CANCER SCREENING

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OBJECTIVES

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of death among women in Hungary. Early detection of the disease can significantly contribute to reducing the mortality rate. The aim of the study is to identify the factors influencing participation in breast screening.

METHODS

We conducted a cross-sectional, quantitative study between June and October 2024 in Hungary. We used non-random, targeted sampling to include women aged 45–65 in the study (N=109). Women with breast or ovarian cancer were excluded from the sample. Data collection was conducted using an online questionnaire covering the following main topics: attitudes toward breast screening, knowledge of the treatability and curability of breast cancer, and knowledge of breast self-examination. Descriptive statistical methods, χ^2 -test, and two-sample t-test ($p \leq 0.05$) were used with Microsoft Excel 16.0 software.

RESULTS

There was no significant difference between educational attainment and the method of obtaining information about screening programs ($p=0.06$). There is a significant correlation between the importance of early detection of breast cancer and the attitude of respondents ($p=0.01$). There was no significant correlation between fear of developing breast cancer and undergoing breast examinations ($p=0.11$). Participation in mammography is not influenced by educational attainment ($p=0.53$), place of residence ($p=0.55$), financial situation ($p=0.24$), marital status ($p=0.54$), fear of diagnosis ($p=0.82$), or fear of radiation ($p=0.06$).

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study suggest that women have a low level of knowledge about breast cancer. Midwives play a key role in informing women about the high incidence of breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

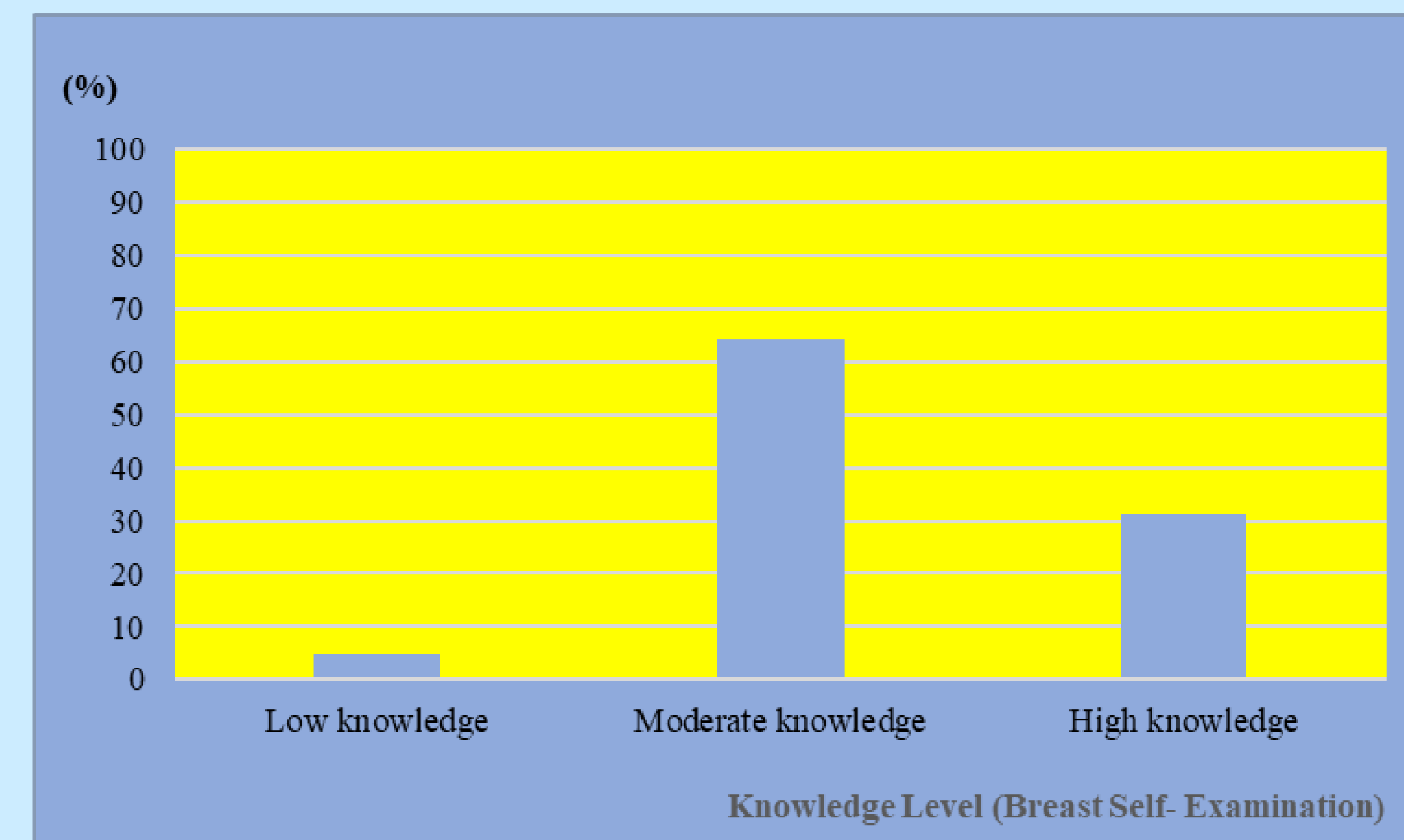


Figure 1. Knowledge Level Regarding Breast Self-Examination (N=109)

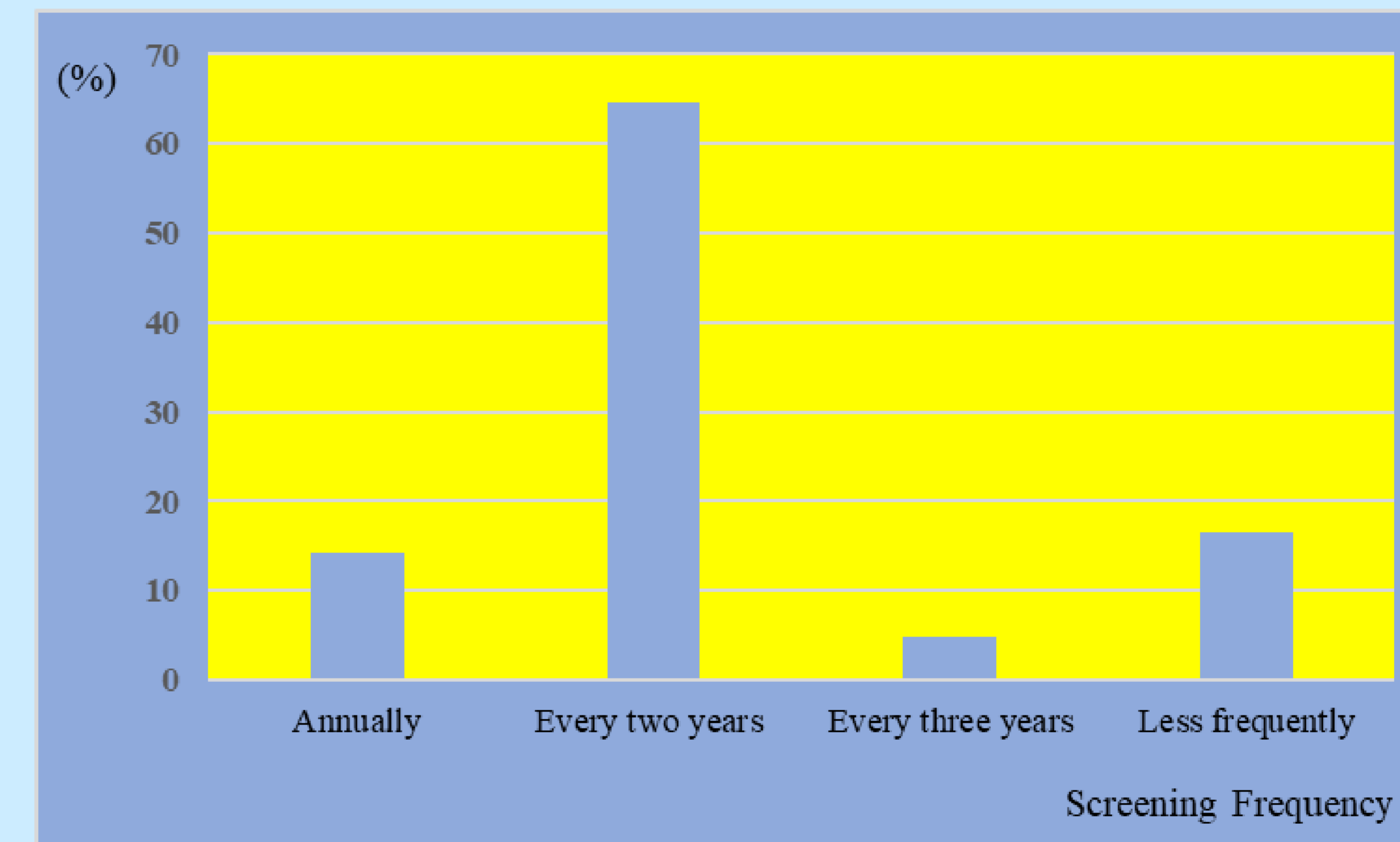


Figure 3. Frequency of Participation in Mammography Screening (N=109)

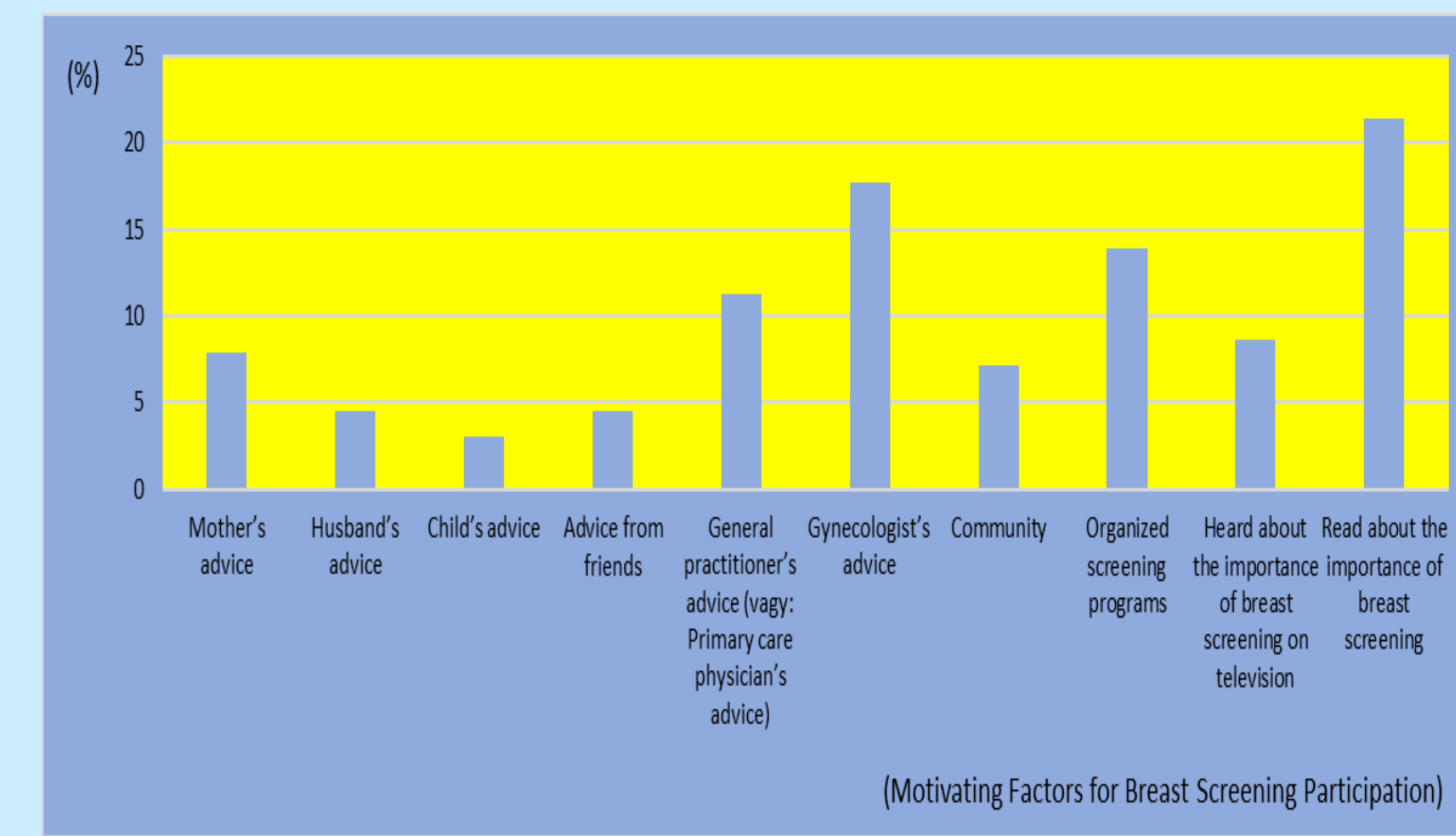


Figure 2. Factors Motivating Screening Participation (N=109)

Variables Examined	p-value
Educational level × source of information	0.06
Educational level × importance of early detection	0.01
Educational level × knowledge of curability	0.11
Fear of breast cancer × breast self-examination	0.11
Fear of male physician × screening participation	0.10
Fear of diagnosis × screening participation	0.82
Fear of radiation × screening participation	0.06
Educational level × screening participation	0.53
Place of residence × screening participation	0.55
Financial status × screening participation	0.24
Marital status × screening participation	0.54

Table 1. Associations Between Selected Variables and Mammography Screening Participation (N=109)

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