Use of sociocognitive models in secondary prevention of breast cancer (pp. 99-130)

Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Yolanda Andreu Vaillo, and Mª José Galdón Garrido
University of Valencia (Spain)

Early detection of breast cancer by mammographic screening continues to be the most effective means of lowering the mortality of this disease. However, it must be noted that the success of any screening program ultimately depends on attaining a high level of adherence to this process. A study of the psychological factors affecting adherence to screening recommendations is therefore a crucial research objective with a view to suggestions of intervention that will contribute to the aims of such a scheme. A review has been made of studies that evaluated the psychosocial factors involved in the use of breast screening, examining the conceptual frameworks of research in this field as well as the main empirical results. Studies focusing on breast self-examination have also been reviewed, since this technique is still recommended as a complementary method to breast screening in spite of the controversy concerning its clinical efficacy. Finally the implications of these research studies are examined in relation to designing interventions aimed at promoting regular use of breast screening.