

**Table 2 Changes in quality of life (QOL) questionnaire scores in 23 breast cancer patients pre-treatment and during chemotherapy**

Item	Mean score		Difference		Clinically meaningful change (% of patients)		
	Pre-chemo	During chemo	Mean	P-value	+ve <sup>a</sup>	No change	-ve <sup>a</sup>
Global health status/QOL	72.5	68.5	-4.0	NS	4	69	26
Physical functioning	82.3	74.5	-7.8	0.004	13	52	35
Role functioning	63.7	73.9	+10.2	NS	52	26	22
Emotional functioning	69.5	65.9	-3.6	NS	22	43	35
Cognitive functioning	85.5	75.3	-10.2	0.007	4	56	39
Social functioning	89.1	79.0	-10.1	0.012	4	61	35
Fatigue	25.4	30.7	+5.3	NS	26	52	22
Nausea and vomiting	8.0	7.9	-0.1	NS	22	56	22
Pain	26.8	26.1	-0.7	NS	26	48	26
Dyspnoea	17.3	18.8	+1.5	NS	4	91	4
Insomnia	27.5	18.7	-8.8	NS	4	83	13
Appetite loss	18.7	14.4	-4.3	NS	13	74	13
Constipation	13.0	4.3	-8.7	NS	17	74	9
Diarrhoea	0.0	0.7	+0.7	NS	0	91	9
Financial difficulties	27.5	23.1	-4.4	NS	13	74	13

<sup>a</sup>+ve = improvement; -ve = impairment.

Chemo = chemotherapy; NS = not significant.