

Women in the DIC: What Motivates Us?

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During the period from November 2022 to March 2023, a survey was made available on the website of the Department of Cardiovascular Imaging (DIC) of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (SBC), aimed at female members of the DIC-SBC, with the objective of better understanding the challenges faced by women during their training and professional exercise.

We obtained 131 responses, and the results are displayed in Figures 1 to 6.

We observed that the majority of the respondents were young (41.2% were between 30 and 40 years old; Figure 1), had graduated from medical school between 10 and 20 years ago (37.4%; Figure 2), and had put off starting a family due to their profession (71.8%; Figure 3).

Regarding the situations they had already experienced while exercising their profession, 72.5% of the respondents cited lack of motivation, 41.2% impostor syndrome, and 40.5% depression. (Figure 4).

When asked about pay, slightly more than half (61.1%) answered that they receive the same amount as their male colleagues (Figure 5).

In relation to their job opportunities compared to men, opinions were very close: 51% thought they had equal opportunities (Figure 6).

Our challenges are not very different from those reported by women physicians in other countries. The Women's Taskforce of the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EAVCI) conducted a survey of women in cardiovascular imaging worldwide: 60% of them reported lack of motivation, 54% imposter syndrome, and 70% anxiety.¹ Regarding pay, 45% answered that they received similar amounts to male physicians; 10% received less than their male colleagues, and 45% answered that they did not know, or that there was no transparency about this.¹

During the Twelfth DIC Congress, held from August 18 to 20, this year, in Brasília, I participated in the second meeting of Women in Cardiovascular Imaging with the physicians Adenvalva Beck, Daniela Rassi Frota, Márcia Barberato, and Marly Uellendahl.

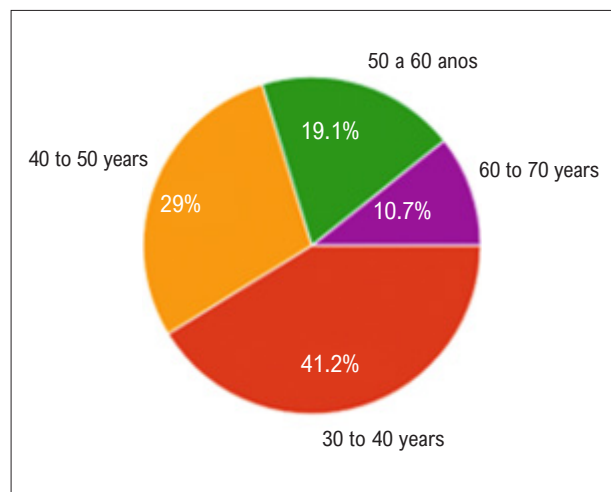


Figure 1 – Age of survey respondents (131 respondents)

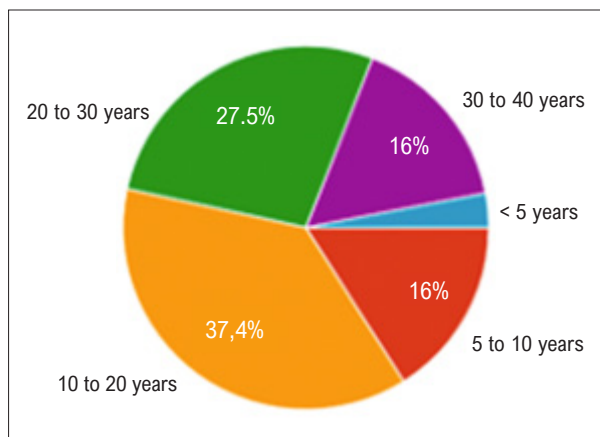


Figure 2 – Time since graduating from medical school (131 respondents)

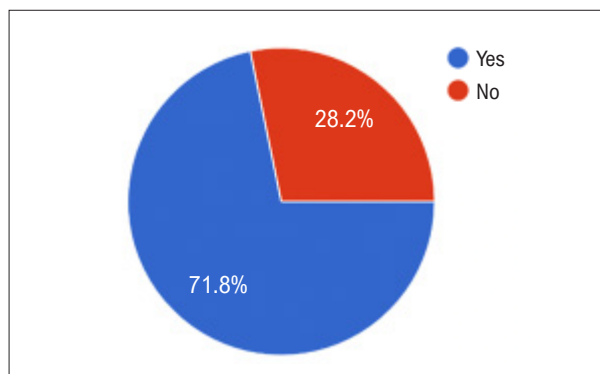


Figure 3 – Answers to the question: "Do you feel that you put off starting a family or having children due to your medical studies or your profession?" (131 respondents)

Keywords

Mulheres; Diagnóstico por Imagem; Medicina.

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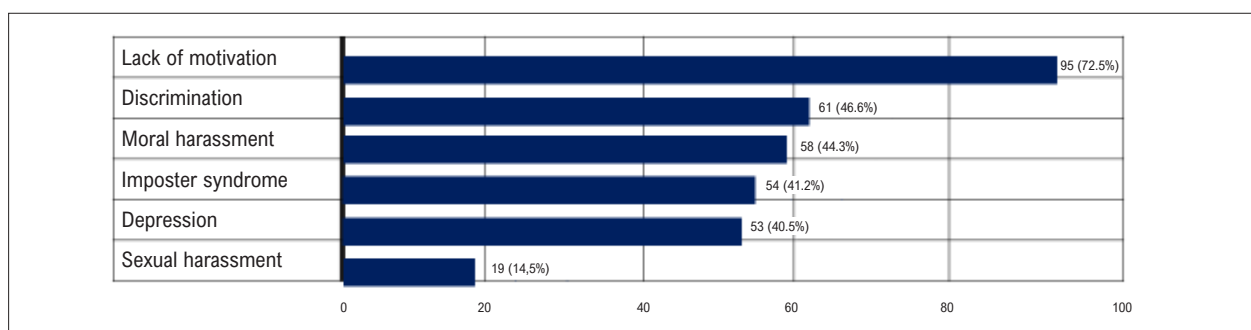


Figure 4 – Answers to the question: “Have you ever felt that you were in any of the following situations during your professional practice?” (131 respondents)

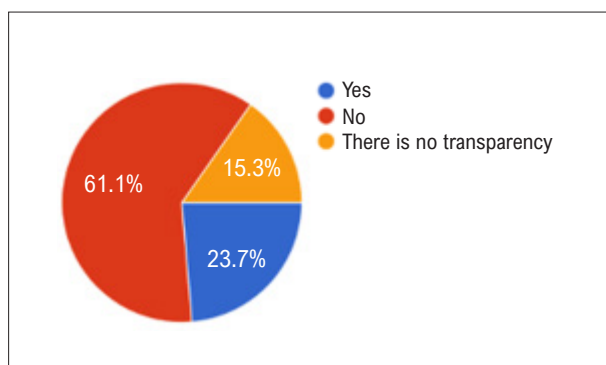


Figure 5 – Answers to the question: “Do you think that you receive lower pay than your male colleagues working in the same professional position?” (131 respondents)

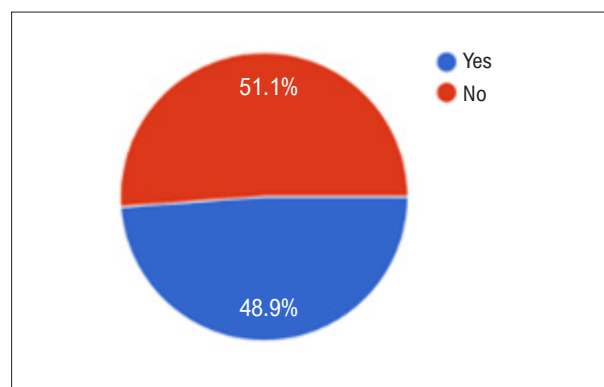


Figure 6 – Answers to the question: “Do you feel that you have had fewer opportunities than your male colleagues?” (131 respondents)

On this occasion, we were able to discuss the results of the survey about Women in the DIC, and ask the women colleagues at the table and the audience what motivates them, and it was very moving to hear their responses, including: “the example of their mothers, the purpose of helping people (patients), loving and ‘liking’ the profession, family (children and husbands), among others.”

At this meeting, as well as at the first meeting of Women in the DIC, held at the Eleventh DIC Congress in São Paulo,² we left with the conviction that, in addition to discussions about women’s participation on the boards of medical societies and health institutions, we must help each other to face the challenges that we still encounter in the exercise of our profession, such as equity of opportunities, balance between family and work, and respect.

References

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