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**The social reception of women with cancer: (In)justice, responsibility, and conditional compassion**

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Individual experiences of cancer are enmeshed with wider cultural understandings and social discourses around responsibility and causation. A diagnosis of cancer can often raise questions about what led to its development - including the role of the individual therein - while the disease and its treatment provides a series of social markers of illness. This article draws on a sociological study of 80 women's accounts of living with cancer, with a focus on how women interpret their illness, in light of these interpersonal and social relations. Analysis of the interviews reveals: women's experiences of cancer diagnosis and the treatment journey; the varied social and cultural meanings of cancer and the responses it elicits; the presence of moral assessments within interactions in everyday life; and, the implications for the forms of support and care they receive in the course of illness and treatment. We argue that the experience of cancer should be seen as intimately interwoven with its social reception and cultural sense-making practices, including normative constructs which promote ideas about (in)justice, responsabilisation and even shame.