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**Title:** Barriers and facilitators to physical activity receiving chemotherapy for lung cancer: An exploratory study

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**Body:** Background Physical activities (PA) induce a positive effect on cardiorespiratory fitness, lung cancer symptoms and quality of life of patients suffering from lung cancer. While 92% of patients are interested in participating in a PA program, only 1/3 of them do sufficient amount of PA to provide important health benefits. The aim of our study was to identify barriers and facilitators to PA in patients with lung cancer receiving chemotherapy. Methods Our study provided data from patients diagnosed with primary NSCLC in advanced stages of the disease receiving chemotherapy. We chose a qualitative approach using a semi-structured interview. We conducted an exploratory analysis, using the thematic analysis technique to process the data. Results Seven barriers and facilitators to PA were identified (side effects of the disease/cancer-related treatment, other physiological limitation, timing/loss of meaning of projects, kinesiophobia, support/care, social usefulness/useless feeling, nature of the PA) and were grouped into 4 categories: physiological, psychological, social and environmental factors. These factors were identified to have different effects on the barriers to PA. Psychological and social factors mainly have an impact on the willingness and ability to practice PA; while physiological and environmental factors have an impact on the duration, intensity and regularity of PA. Conclusion Our study highlighted some of the effects that the barriers to PA have on the practice of PA in patients with NSCLC receiving chemotherapy. Our findings may be used by professionals to design an adapted PA program in this population.