

1- INTRODUCTION

In Mali, as elsewhere in Africa, women discover their breast cancer late. We aim to contribute to a better understanding of the experiences of women with breast cancer by describing how the care pathways of women with breast cancer in Mali are constructed on a daily basis.⁽¹⁾

2- METHODOLOGY

25 semi-structured interviews (2021-2022)

Participants: Women with breast cancer

Transcripts

Recruitment: mainly via breast cancer associations

5- CONCLUSION

This study has enabled us to explain how care pathways are shaped by events and encounters.

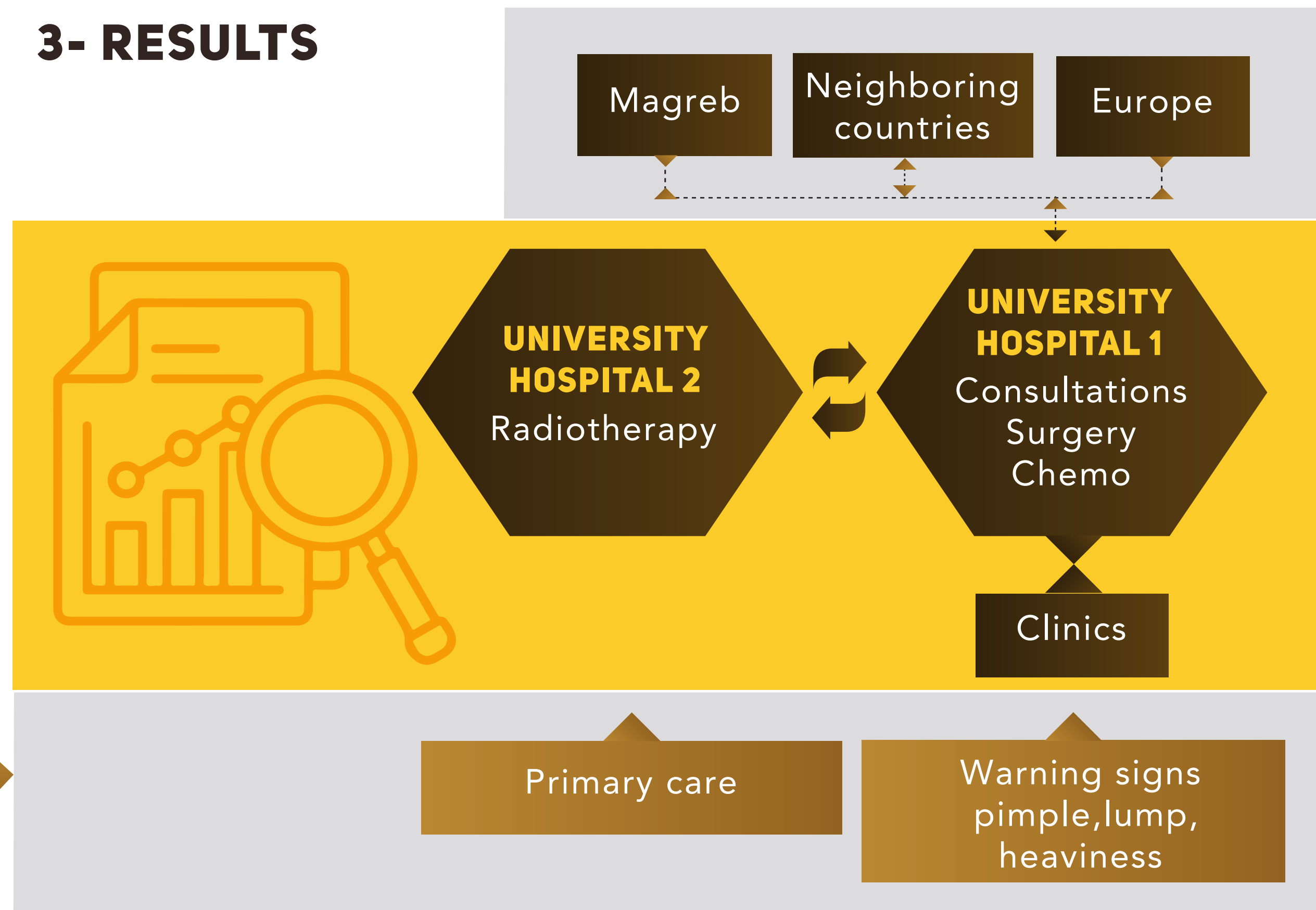
Based on this knowledge, it would be useful to carry out the following actions:

- Raise women's awareness of the signs that give rise to suspicions of the disease;
- raise caregivers' awareness of the need to refer women to specialists in the event of suspicions.

6- BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Grosse Frie K, Kamaté B, Traoré CB, Ly M, Malla B, Coulibaly B, et al. Factors associated with time to first healthcare visit, diagnosis and treatment, and their impact on survival among breast cancer patients in Mali. PLOS ONE. 29 nov 2018;13(11):e0207928.

3- RESULTS



4- FINDINGS

Poor knowledge of the disease, its symptoms and how to manage it in community structures, lead to delays and errors in diagnosis and treatment

“I went to 5 small health centers, and they told me there was nothing wrong with me... I explained to them that I have 2 small pimples on my breast and they reassured me that it wasn't serious.” (Ili, 43 years old).

Diagnostic tests are numerous and services are dispersed, often leading to a certain amount of therapeutic wandering.

“I first went to a clinic, and then the Gabriel Touré hospital and for CNDE analyses I went there too; and the Point G hospital and the Missabougou hospital.” (Bébé, 37 years old).

For treatment, access to radiotherapy is often difficult due to frequent breakdowns.

“So I waited 3 months, and I made up my mind that it's something that takes time. I went out of my way to come here to find out why it's taking so long, and I was told that the machine is broken.” (Rokia, 60 years old).

