

ESM 2. Additional methodological detail (ESM2_Additional methodological detail.docx).

The document presents additional methodological detail, including strategy followed to create narrative stimuli, details about timing and participants' response mode, and attention check items. Available at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/S2KZN>

Narrative stimuli creation. Each 8-slide scenario was divided into four pre-defined sections; these were labelled 'history', 'wait', 'mammogram', and 'fillers'. Sections were rotated across scenario type, so that the negative narratives—always the two mammogram narratives—were presented in either of the three serial positions (Start, Middle, or End). This strategy involved minimal changes to the descriptions of the various segments presented in different scenarios type. In order to verify whether the different presentation orders alone impacted evaluations, three different versions of the Control stories were created—each matching the story line of the Start, Middle and End scenarios. Changes in the text to accommodate these three versions were minimal (see Electronic Supplementary Materials 1).

Presentation duration. Presentation of each screen lasted for a minimum of 10 seconds, after which participants could press a <Next> button to move forward to the next screen. Participants were also told that after 20 seconds the presentation would automatically proceed to the next screen. After the last screen was presented, a series of asterisks (******) indicated the end of the description.

Response mode. Participants used a mouse to click on a slider bar (with extremes of 0 and 100) on a position they felt was closest to their impression of the scenario. To limit anchoring effects (e.g., Chapman & Johnson, 2002) a sliding marker would appear on the bar, with its numerical value below, only after the first click. Participants could then adjust this initial rating; they confirmed their final rating by clicking on a "Continue" button.

Attention check items. Only one of the three response options was correct. As an example, a MCQ for a negative narrative asked “During the mammography, how was the compression described?” Participants had to choose between “painful”, “moderate” and “mild”. As an example of a MCQ for a neutral narrative, participants had to answer the question “How did the specialist breast care nurse record the woman’s personal details?” by selecting either “By scribbling them down on a sheet of paper”, “By recording them with a voice-recorder”, or “By typing them on a computer”.