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In a multivariate analysis, current tobacco use (odds ratio [OR], 5.20; confidence interval [CI], 3.83-9.13) and exposure to second hand smoke (OR, 1.82; CI, 1.17-2.82) were independent predictors of lower health perceptions. **Conclusion:** Although a majority of the female recipients ceased smoking prior to HTX, a substantial proportion demonstrated recurrent tobacco use after surgery. Our findings suggest the need for multiple risk factor interventions to promote smoking cessation before and after HTX in this unique population of female recipients.

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Smoking among Women Following Heart Transplantation: Should We Be Concerned?

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Introduction: The purpose of this study was to describe smoking patterns and health perceptions and examine relationships between tobacco use, exposure to second hand smoke (ESHS), health perceptions, and demographic and clinical characteristics in women following heart transplantation (HTX). **Methods:** Seventy-two women (mean age, 54.3 ± 12.7 years; mean time since transplant, 5.5 ± 4.5 years) were enrolled from a single HTX center. Demographic and clinical data, smoking status, and perceived health were obtained through self-report and chart reviews. Tobacco use was verified by measuring urine cotinine levels. **Results:** Data showed that 25% of the women continued to smoke after receiving a HTX and 40% were exposed to second hand smoke. Forty-three percent of the women perceived their health status as poor-fair; the remaining 57% reported good-excellent health. Tobacco use and ESHS was highest among African-American women; tobacco use and ESHS was associated with perceived health (see Table).

Correlational Matrix for Key Variables (N=72)

	Race	Marital status	Time since HTX ¹ (years)	Current smoker	ESHS ²	Perceived Health
Race	1.000					
Marital status	-.020	1.000				
Time since HTX ¹ (years)	.251	.123	1.000			
Current smoker	.294*	.015	.155	1.000		
ESHS ²	.304*	-.013	.010	.364†	1.000	
Perceived Health	.134	.353†	.169	-.265*	-.239*	1.000

¹HTX - Heart transplantation; ²ESHS - Exposure to second hand smoke; *p < .050; †p < .001.