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Women's experiences of supportive care in early pregnancy following recurrent miscarriage

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Abstract:

Background: Women with a history of recurrent miscarriage may show signs of increased anxiety in subsequent pregnancies. Supportive care is offered to these women in early pregnancy and usually includes regular early ultrasound scans and emotional support. The research explored women's experiences of supportive care in a large teaching hospital.

Aims: To investigate women's experiences of supportive care in early pregnancy

Methods: In 2005, 133 women were invited to take part. Quantitative and qualitative analysis was carried out on the data collected.

- Postal Structured Questionnaire (32)
- Semi-structured interview (8).

Results: Five main categories: The Impact of Pregnancy Loss – Following miscarriage the majority of women felt sadness, alone, frustration and had concern for future pregnancies. The need for support – Women reported that supportive care was not routinely offered to eligible women who may have benefited. In subsequent pregnancies initial excitement was overshadowed by anxiety focused on 'waiting for the miscarriage to happen'. Technical surveillance – Many of the women expressed the importance of monitoring pregnancy progress and talked about how there was an increased level of hope when reaching each gestational milestone.

Why has it happened again?

Women felt a strong desire to discover their reason for recurrent miscarriage and had a difficulty understanding why investigations weren't carried out after their second miscarriage. Trying again

There was inconsistent advice about trying again – some women were keen to 'just get on with it' and wanted permission to try again

Conclusions: Supportive care was not routinely offered, requiring women to demand increased support. Ultrasound provided reassurance by confirming 'signs of life' but women did not welcome false hope. Most women had received good care from an efficient and caring service and welcomed individualised care.

Recommended reading:

Clifford, K. Rai, R. and Regan, L. (1997) Future Pregnancy Outcome in Unexplained Recurrent First Trimester Miscarriage. *Human Reproduction*. 12, pp 387 – 389

Brigham, S.A. Conlon, C. and Farguharson, R.G. (1999) A Longitudinal Study of Pregnancy Outcome Following Idiopathic Recurrent Miscarriage. *Human Reproduction*. 14 (11), pp 2868 – 2871.

Liddell, H.S. Pattison, N.S. and Zanderigo, A (1991) Recurrent Miscarriage – Outcome After Supportive Care in Early Pregnancy. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 31 (4), pp 320 – 322

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Experiencing breastfeeding and sexuality in motherhood: Separating yourself between motherhood and being a woman

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Abstract:

The interface between breast feeding and feminine sexuality is an aspect of crucial importance in a woman's life. Nevertheless, it is not well known by the professionals who assist them, and for this reason an investigation was begun as to how that self-expressiveness happens throughout the woman's point of view. This study has, as its principle, the theoretical model "Pesando Riscos e Beneficias" (Silva, 1997) Comprehending the meaning of the sexual interface of breast feeding for women experiencing this process and to comprehend how this dimension attributed the sexual interface is shown in a woman's behavior. It was taken as theoretical and methodological referential symbolic interactions and theory based on data and it's analysis respectively, and was obtained by interviewing 13 women who have been living in Sao Paulo's municipal district, that were either breast feeding or have already had this experience. From these results emerged three observations: Feeling the body's change; taking on new duties, and neglecting the relationship and separating themselves between motherhood and relationships.

The study revealed that for these women the breast feeding experience and its interface with the feminine sexuality happens throughout motherhood, by trying constantly to separate themselves from motherhood and being a woman. She wants to mediate the breast feeding and her sexual life by trying to conciliate these new functions with the others; understanding, however, that in this phase of her life the priority is the child and its needs.

Recommended reading:

ABUCHAIM, E. de S.V. *Experiencing Breastfeeding and Sexuality in Motherhood: separating yourself between motherhood and being a woman*. [Thesis] São Paulo (SP): Escola de Enfermagem, Universidade de São Paulo; 2005.

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Exploring the use of the internet for breastfeeding advice: A descriptive survey

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Abstract:

Background: This is the first stage of a Doctoral Study that sets out to explore women's perceived value of the internet as a support system for breastfeeding mothers. Women are increasingly turning to the internet for health information and as a source of advice to support decision making in pregnancy (Lagan 2007). However, the content of some websites may not always provide relevant responses to health queries (Benigeri and Pluye, 2003) and the internet could play a greater role in motivating women to breastfeed. (Stockdale et al., 2007)

Aims: The aim of this work is to explore and understand the searching processes undertaken by women who seek information about breastfeeding from the internet.

Objectives: This paper will describe internet search volume trends on breastfeeding at national and international levels.

Methods: Internet Surveillance has been undertaken using various Google tools and Data Capture Software. Data analysis will provide a breakdown of internet search volume on breastfeeding and associated terms and will be presented as a global overview of breastfeeding traffic online. Analysis will also include an overview of the main internet sites commonly featured in relation to the key breastfeeding search terms identified. Findings will be presented using simple frequencies, bar charts and figures. Data is analysed using SPSSV14. Discussion will focus on the usage of breastfeeding search terms, breastfeeding rates, breastfeeding search profiles for individual countries and an overview of websites accessed using key search terms identified by internet users. This information will contribute to the development of understanding of women's use of the internet in relation to health and health care.

Recommended reading:

Benigeri M, Pluye P. (2003) Shortcomings of Health Information on the Internet. *Health Promotion International* 18 (4): 381-6

Lagan B. (2007) *Womens' Decision Making in Pregnancy: The Role of the Internet* (unpublished PhD dissertation). University of Ulster: Jordans-town, Northern Ireland

Stockdale J, Sinclair M, Kernohan WG, Keller JM. (2007) Exploring the Potential of the Internet to Motivate Breastfeeding. *The Royal College of Midwives. Evidence Based Midwifery* 5 (1): 10-5