

Title: Psychosocial aspects of intrapartum and postpartum care

Author: Mgr. Lea Takács

Department: Department of Psychology

Supervisor: PhDr. Simona Hoskovcová, Ph.D.
Consultant: MUDr. PhDr. Pavel Čepický, CSc.

Abstract

Background: Satisfaction with perinatal care is largely a result of psychosocial aspects of the care provided. However, despite a considerable body of research, the concept of satisfaction with perinatal care is not sufficiently defined and understood, being often confused with other concepts, particularly with that of satisfaction with childbirth experience. The lack of knowledge concerns especially the psychosocial dimensions and determinants of the care, most importantly for different groups of women, and the level of importance of psychosocial factors for satisfaction compared to biomedical variables.

Objective: The aim of the present dissertation is to contribute to the theory of satisfaction by investigating the psychosocial and biomedical factors that affect satisfaction with perinatal care and satisfaction with childbirth experience in different groups of women depending on the mode of delivery (vaginal delivery, emergency caesarean section or elective caesarean section).

Method: Ordinal logistic regression was used to identify the key predictors of satisfaction. The data were obtained from 680 women who gave birth at maternity hospitals in Vysočina region between October 2013 and September 2014. The women completed questionnaires in the third trimester of pregnancy and two months after delivery.

Results: Our results confirmed the difference between satisfaction with perinatal care and satisfaction with childbirth experience as their predictors differed considerably. While satisfaction with care was predicted mainly by the psychosocial factors (the interactions and relationships with caregivers) with a negligible influence of the biomedical variables, satisfaction with childbirth experience was predicted primarily by the intensity of childbirth pain and the information received. Satisfaction with care was associated with women's social background, while satisfaction with childbirth with their psychological characteristics. The intergroup differences in satisfaction predictors were also observed depending on the mode of delivery.

Key words: psychosocial aspects; perinatal care; intrapartum care; patient satisfaction; childbirth experience