

Additional File 1: The final questionnaire, originally developed in German and translated for the purpose of this publication.

Comment: Information provided in [square brackets] were not shown to participants.

1. [general section]

We will now ask you various questions about the birth of your child. If you have given birth more than once, these questions will always **relate to your experience of the last birth** by cesarean section.

1.1 **When** was it decided that you should have a cesarean section?

- The cesarean section was already planned before going to the hospital.
- After delivery had already begun.
- I required an emergency cesarean within 15 minutes.

1.2 [Salmon's Item List, German short (Stadlmayr et al., 2009)]

1.3 How do the following statements apply to the **cesarean section you experienced?**

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	totally agree
I felt the staff was working well together, before, during and after the cesarean section.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The cesarean section matched my expectations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the time, I understood the decision to have a cesarean section.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.4 How much do you agree with the following statements **concerning care provided by professionals?**

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	totally agree
The professionals informed me sufficiently during birth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was informed about all important procedures before the cesarean section.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I felt that the healthcare professionals were open to my wishes and needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During birth, I felt actively involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.5 Was this a **multiple birth**?

- Yes, I had twins, triplets, etc.
- No

1.6 [Information conditional on 1.5 = “Yes, I had twins, triplets, etc.”]

You stated that you had a multiple birth. From this point on, please assume all questions about “your child” refer to all of the children you gave birth to at the end of your most recent pregnancy.

1.7 Were you able to hold your baby with direct skin-to-skin contact already in the operating room?

- Yes
- No

1.8 How much do you agree with the following statement?

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	totally agree
In the first hours after the cesarean section, my child was still a stranger to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
After the cesarean section, it was easy to form a bond with my child.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1.9 Did you breastfeed?

- Yes, I still do.
- Yes, I did.
- No

1.10 How long did you breastfeed, completely or partially?
[question conditional on 1.9 = “Yes, I did.”]

- less than 1 month
- 1 month
- ...
- 12 months
- more than 12 months

1.11 Did you want to breastfeed?

[question conditional on 1.9 = “No”]

- Yes, but it wasn’t possible for the following reasons: _____
- No, I did not want to breastfeed.

1.12 How many hours after the cesarean section did you hold your baby to the breast for the first time?

[question conditional on 1.9 ≠ "No"]

- less than 1 hour
- 1 hour
- ...
- 12 hours
- more than 12 hours

2. Gentle cesarean section

2.1 [Definition gentle cesarean section]

Since 2017, the University Women's Hospital of Bern offers the option of a **gentle cesarean section**. The procedure includes a transparent drape between patient and surgeon. The mother and her partner can observe the cesarean section if they wish to.

2.2 Did you have such a gentle cesarean section?

- Yes
- No

2.2.1 In hindsight, how do **you** rate the view through the transparent drape?

[question conditional on 2.2 = "Yes"]

- I would have preferred not to see that much of the birth.
- It was just right how much I saw from the birth.
- I would have preferred to see more of the birth.

2.2.2 If **your partner** was with you during the cesarean section, what do you think, how he/she would rate the view through the drape?

[question conditional on 2.2 = "Yes"]

- He/she would have preferred to see less of the birth.
- It was just right how much he/she saw from the birth.
- He/she would have preferred to see more of the birth.
- I had no birth companion during the caesarean section.

2.2.3 Please describe how you experienced the gentle cesarean section as a whole process.

[question conditional on 2.2 = "Yes"]

2.2.4 In your opinion, how could we improve the birth experience during the gentle cesarean section?

[question conditional on 2.2 = "Yes"]

2.2.5 Why did you choose a gentle cesarean section?

[question conditional on 2.2 = "Yes"]

3.4 [Whooley questions (Whooley et al., 1997)]

3.5 What is your highest degree of education?

- Compulsory education
- Apprenticeship
- Grammar school, vocational A level, specialised secondary school certificate (FMS), vocational college (DMS)
- Higher technical and vocational training
- University of Applied Sciences, educational college
- University, Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL, ETH)
- Other: _____

3.6 You completed the questionnaire. Is there anything you would like to let us know?

References

Stadlmayr W, Bitzer J, Hösli I, Amsler F, Leupold J, Schwendke-Kliem A, et al. Birth as a multidimensional experience: comparison of the English- and German-language versions of Salmon's item list. *J Psychosom Obstet Gynecol.* 2009;22(4):205-14.
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