## Supplementary Table 1.

Women's perception of how well their VEs were managed.

Statement	Strongl		Disagree		No		Agree		Strongl		Mea	SD
	y			strong				y agree		n		
	disa	gre			view							
	e											
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
The staff gave	0	0	48	24	3	1.5	14	74.	0	0	3.50	0.8
me excellent							9	5				5
information												
about VEs												
I felt I could	2	1	15	76	6	3	40	20	0	0	2.42	0.8
always refuse			2									1
a VE <sup>L</sup>												
The staff	0	0	81	40.	8	4	11	55.	0	0	3.15	0.9
always asked				5			1	5				7
my												
permission												
before												
performing a												
VE												
VEs were	0	0	4	2	1	6.5	18	90	3	1.5	3.91	0.3
always					3		0					9
performed												
with great												
Sensitivity <sup>H</sup>												
The subject of	0	0	33	16.	1	6.5	15	76.	1	0.5	2.39	0.7
VEs was				5	3		3	5				6
never properly												
discussed*L												
VEs were	0	0	16	8	1	5	17	86	2	1	3.80	0.5
done with					0		2					8
dignity H												
	The staff gave me excellent information about VEs  I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> The staff always asked my permission before performing a VE  VEs were always performed with great Sensitivity H  The subject of VEs was never properly discussed*L  VEs were done with	the staff gave me excellent information about VEs  I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> The staff always asked my permission before performing a VE  VEs were always performed with great Sensitivity H  The subject of OVEs was never properly discussed*L  VEs were done with	y           disagre           e           N         %           The staff gave me excellent information about VEs         0         0           I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> 2         1           The staff always asked my permission before performing a VE         0         0           before performing a VE         0         0           VEs were always performed with great Sensitivity H         0         0           The subject of VEs was never properly discussed*L         0         0           VEs were done with         0         0	y           disagre         e           N         %         N           The staff gave me excellent information about VEs         0         0         48           I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> 2         1         15           always asked my permission before performing a VE         0         0         81           always performed with great Sensitivity H         0         0         4           The subject of VEs was never properly discussed*L         0         0         33           VEs were done with         0         0         16	y disagre e  N % N %  The staff gave me excellent information about VEs  I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> The staff ave my permission before performing a VE  VEs were always performed with great Sensitivity H  The subject of VEs was never properly discussed*L  VE were done with	Y   disagre   vie   e   vie   vie   e   vie   vie   e   vie   vie	y         disagre         strong           N         %         N         %         N         %           The staff gave me excellent information about VEs         0         0         48         24         3         1.5           I felt I could always refuse a VE <sup>L</sup> 2         1         15         76         6         3           The staff always asked my permission before performing a VE         0         0         81         40.         8         4           VEs were always performed with great Sensitivity H         0         0         4         2         1         6.5           VEs was never properly discussed*L         0         0         16         8         1         5           VEs were done with         0         0         16         8         1         5	Y   Strong   View   View	Y	Y   Strong view   Vi	Y   Strong   View   V	N   N   N   N   N   N   N   N   N   N

7	I felt that I	0	0	30	15	9	4.5	16	80	1	0.5	3.66	0.7
	always gave							0					3
	my consent												
	before a VE												
	was carried												
	out												
8	I always felt	0	0	16	8	1	8	16	83.	1	0.5	3.76	0.5
	well					6		7	5				9
	supported												
	during the												
	VE <sup>H</sup>												
9	Privacy was	0	0	11	5.5	1	6.5	17	87.	1	0.5	3.83	0.5
	always					3		5	5				1
	maintained												
	during VE <sup>H</sup>												
10	VEs caused	0	0	73	36.	9	4.5	11	56.	5	2.5	2.75	0.9
	me great				5			3	5				8
	embarrassmen												
	t*												
11	During each	0	0	55	27.	1	6.5	13	65	2	1	3.39	0.9
	VE, I was				5	3		0					0
	always told												
	what was												
	happening												
12	I did not find	4	2	17	85.	3	1.5	22	11	0	0	2.21	0.6
	VE distressing			1	5								5
	L												
13	Thinking back	0	0	55	27.	6	3	13	66	7	3.5	2.54	0.9
	over my labor,				5			2					3
	I was given												
	too many												
	vaginal												
	examinations*												

14	Coping with	1	0.5	56	28	5	2.5	13	66	6	3	2.57	0.9
	VEs caused							2					4
	me great												
	anxiety*.												
15	VEs were far	1	0.5	47	23.	1	5.5	13	69.	2	1	2.53	0.8
	more				5	1		9	5				7
	unpleasant												
	than I ever												
	imagined*L												
16	I found VE	0	0	31	15.	7	3.5	15	79	4	2	2.32	0.7
	painful*L				5			8					5
17	I wish the	1	0.5	12	62	3	16	43	21.	0	0	3.41	0.8
	staff had			4		2			5				2
	explained												
	more about												
	VEs*												
18	The	1	0.5	43	21.	1	7	14	70	2	1	3.49	0.8
	information				5	4		0					5
	gained from												
	VE was												
	reassuring												
19	The	2	1	12	63.	2	12	46	23	1	0.5	3.41	0.8
	information			7	5	4							6
	gained from												
	VE caused me												
	anxiety*												
20	I felt the VE	2	1	16	83.	2	10.	10	5	0	0	3.80	0.5
	was roughly			7	5	1	5						2
	handled at												
	time H*												
do N.T.	itivaly worded sta	<u> </u>		1	1	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	I

<sup>\*</sup> Negatively worded statements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>H</sup> Highest means score.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>L</sup> Lowest means score.