

Coding tree of article entitled

“Understanding the perspectives and values of midwives, obstetricians, and obstetric registrars towards episiotomy: qualitative interview study”

1) Vision on childbirth

- a. Harm versus protection
 - i. Effect episiotomy
 - ii. Anatomic result
 - iii. Episiotomy versus spontaneous ruptures
 - iv. Seeing episiotomy as a technical operation
- b. Tendency to intervene
 - i. Physiological versus pathological
 - ii. Perspectives on national incidences
 - iii. Variation in / vision on methods during second stage of labour
- c. Paternalistic versus client – who decides
- d. Narrow idea on others’ way of acting/thinking
 - i. Standard way of working
 - ii. Feeling of being judged by care providers from other professional background
- e. Personal evaluation
 - i. Evaluating with themselves/colleagues/woman
 - ii. Training, eagerness to learn
 - iii. Too few of overuse of episiotomies
- f. External factors
 - i. Experience
 - ii. Profession/education
 - iii. Colleagues

2) Discrepancy between vision or literature and daily practice

- a. Restrictive vision versus list of indications
 - i. Fetal distress, prolonged second stage, exhaustion, instrumental birth, OASI in history, tight perineum, short perineum, prevention of long-term harm, prevention of spontaneous ruptures/OASI, prevention of instrumental birth, shoulder dystocia, breech presentation, macrosomia, care provider’s interest, specific maternal history.
 - ii. High national incidences
- b. Justification – harm versus aim
 - i. Feeling confident in policy and practice
 - ii. Feeling uncertain/unexperienced
 - iii. Intrapartum factors influencing decision making: birthing situation, maternal characteristics, medical technology, women’s desires (to a lesser extent)

- iv. Justification of high incidence in obstetric-led care
- c. Fear of the demand to justify
- d. Limitations for optimal care
 - i. Women's desires
 - ii. Lack of postpartum check-ups
 - iii. Blunt scissors
 - iv. Difficulties with evaluation
- e. Literature versus practice
 - i. Only for fetal distress
 - ii. Limitations in applying the literature
 - iii. Using literature to justify actions
 - iv. Variation in episiotomy techniques
 - v. Variation in pelvic floor protection and pushing instructions
- f. Deciding on own clinical expertise
 - i. Personal methods
 - ii. Acting autonomously
- g. Influence of other care providers:
 - i. Supervision, final responsibility
 - ii. Practices that are imposed
 - iii. Shared decisions

3) Women's involvement

- a. Absence of women's voice
 - i. Birth plan
- b. Absence of informed consent
 - i. Trusting bond
 - ii. Opting out
 - iii. Convincing/threatening
 - iv. Women's inability:
 - State during second stage
 - Unrealistic expectations
 - Letting go of control
 - Wrong perception of episiotomy
- c. Women's autonomy
 - i. Body integrity
 - ii. Individualized support
 - iii. Influence of birthplace
 - iv. Decision made by care provider
- d. Being informed prenatally
- e. Use of trivializing words