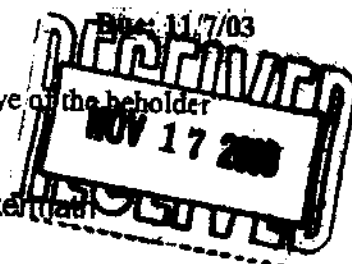


Nursing Research fax #: 919/966-9736

**NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM**

1st Review (companion ms. to earlier ms. "Birth Trauma: In the eye of the beholder")



Manuscript #: 2003/188  
Manuscript title: Post-traumatic stress disorder after childbirth: The aftermath  
Manuscript type: Regular  
Number of text pgs.: 18  
Number of figures: 0  
Number of tables: 2  
Reviewer: Holly Kennedy  
Stat reviewer assigned?: No -- do you recommend a stat reviewer?

**Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)**

Problem statement: *Adequate*  
Attention to relevant literature: *Adequate*  
Theoretical framework: *Not appropriate*  
Research design: *Adequate*  
Data analysis: *Adequate*  
Discussion of results: *Adequate*  
Organization: *Adequate*  
Writing style: *Adequate*

**Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):**

Value of topic: 5  
Probable reader interest in topic: 4  
Importance of present contribution to nursing: 5  
Priority of topic for publication: 4  
Rank this manuscript for its value: 4

**Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):**

Accept without revisions  
Accept with revisions x (minor)  
Maybe accept with revisions  
Do not accept

**Comments for Editor only:** none

**Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.  
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.**

*Strengths: This is an easy to read, well-organized manuscript. The review of literature is strong and leads the reader into the need for study on this topic. The rich quotes are excellent and support the findings. Very valuable study and a pleasure to read, even with the difficult content!*

*Weaknesses: Very few weaknesses are identified. There is no discussion of reviewing the findings with other researchers, either those experienced in qualitative methods, or in the area of post-traumatic stress disorder which would strengthen the rigor of the analysis in the methods section. Title is a bit redundant. See discussion below.*

### **Integrated review:**

*Problem statement: The problem statement could be worded more clearly to differentiate this study from the two discussed in the review of literature. This study represents the sequela of birth trauma as PTSD, rather than the immediate experiences of birth trauma.*

*Attention to relevant literature: Review of literature is very well done. Could be enhanced by Simkin's and Seng's work; the latter would enhance the discussion section.*

*Theoretical framework: None included which is appropriate for this kind of study.*

*Research design: The initial description of the design is adequate – see next section for needed improvement on how the analysis was done.*

*Data analysis: I have some questions about the sample, mostly in the diagnosis of PTSD. The author indicated the women were recruited from the Internet & that some had participated in a past study. How was the diagnosis of PTSD made -- by the mother's self report? I'm not contending that that is not ok; it just would be helpful to understand more about how these women were identified. The other question I have about the sample is when their birth trauma happened – it would be helpful to know if these women had experienced this over years or relatively recently.*

*More discussion of the process of conducting this study on the Internet would be useful to readers. When conducting a study over this distance (not face to face) issues may come up that women might experience serious flashbacks during the process of recounting their experiences to the researcher. Some discussion of this (if it did occur) would also be helpful.*

Discussion of results: Adequate

*Overall the themes are beautifully descriptive and the reader feels the anguish of these women's experiences – nice job of pulling illustrative quotes.*

*Theme 1 – although I recognize the title is probably drawn from a quote, it is not as descriptive line 14 on page 10 of "automatic replay"*

*I would have liked a brief summary of the essence of the experience to capture it in totality – after all of the themes are presented.*

*p. 15, line 15 women should be womun*

*Theme 5, p. 16. How many of the women actually went on to have other children? Did any of them have healing experiences in subsequent births? This is an important issue for clinicians working with women who have experienced, and continue to experience, this phenomenon. P. 18, lines 7-10 is excellent for this purpose!*

*Limitations of the study need to be presented.*

*When discussing implications for future research I would address the need to purposively sample women who have had positively healing and what worked for them.*