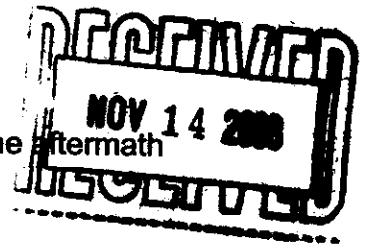


Nursing Research fax #: 919/966-9736

NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM

1st Review



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: Betty L. Broom
Stat reviewer assigned?: Yes No If not, 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: (1) adequate
Attention to relevant literature: (1) adequate
Theoretical framework: (1) adequate
Research design: (1) adequate
Data analysis: (1) adequate
Discussion of results: (2) inadequate
Organization: (1) adequate
Writing style: (1) 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: 5

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

Accept without revisions
Accept with revisions X
Maybe accept with revisions
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

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

Review Comments:

Problem statement

The problem statement and purpose of the study are clearly stated. The literature review provided further background.

Literature review

The literature review reports relevant studies and is logically organized. The summary paragraph (p. 7, lines 1-5) does not mention other risk factors identified in some studies, specifically psychiatric history and first pregnancy.

Theoretical framework

None needed in this qualitative study. The literature review does introduce some major concepts that may be helpful in constructing a conceptual framework.

Research design

Descriptive phenomenology is an appropriate approach for the purpose of the study. The author also describes the philosophy underlying the technique and the process--helpful for the uninitiated. Interesting sampling procedure.

Data analysis

Analysis was appropriate for the study and clearly described. I would suggest that the author discuss here (at the end of the section) how she validated the themes, rather than on p. 11, lines 2-7. The validation process is really part of the procedures and analyses. I would also like to see a footnote for Table 1 that names the two themes illustrated in the table.

Results

This is a powerful section. It should be required reading for anyone engaged in caring for laboring women.

Discussion

This section (begins p. 18, line 11) is weak. It lacks discussion of how this study adds to/supports results of others. For example, birth trauma from increased interventions (vacuum, forceps, emergency C/S), complications such as hemorrhage, and perceptions of inadequate care were also identified in this study as precipitating events of PTSD.

p. 20, lines 1-11. Need something about assessing mother-infant interaction to look for these consequences. It's another way to identify these women.

p. 18, line 19. I like the prevention ideas, but think more could be done here. For example, advocating increased childbirth education so women know what to expect and

have some tools to help them cope. It's unclear whether these women had taken classes. Nurses should also be assessing pain and seeing that patients get adequate pain relief.

p. 20, line 12. Implications for future research. Suggest perhaps it may be time for intervention studies to evaluate the effectiveness of support groups, prevention strategies.

p. 18, line 16. I am unclear why Beck's study is discussed here. It does not fit and would be more appropriate in the literature review.

Organization

This is a well organized manuscript.

Writing style

Well written.

Value and importance

This is a valuable study. It presents rich data that will make labor and delivery nurses and other health care providers think about their practice and reexamine "routine" procedures. It should be required reading for all nursing students during their maternity clinical rotations. r