

Perception of Malaysian women towards a companion in labour and their birth experience during Covid-19

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) has caused drastic changes in healthcare standard operating procedure to reduce the Covid-19 spread. This pandemic brings new norms into the society where movements to hospitals are restricted, social distancing becomes compulsory and the usage of physical protective equipment is inevitable. This has led to women's concern to have a labour companion during this pandemic. This study aims to assess women's perception towards companions in labour and their birth experience during Covid-19. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study and convenience sampling involving women who gave birth in Malaysia between March 2020 and March 2021 were conducted. Self-administrative online questionnaires were distributed via proxies. The sociodemographic factors, perception and birth experience were described using descriptive analyses. The non-parametric Pearson chi-squared test, Fisher's exact test, simple and multiple logistic regressions were used to test the association between sociodemographic factors and the perception of women towards companions in labour and their birth experience during Covid-19. **Results:** Of the 400 respondents, 86.8% of women had a positive perception towards companions in labour and 74.5% of women had a negative birth experience during Covid-19. There was no significant association between sociodemographic factors and the women's perception towards companions in labour and their birth experience during Covid-19. **Conclusion:** The number of women having a companion in labour during the Covid-19 pandemic was greatly reduced. Their perceptions towards companions in labour were positive. However, their birth experiences were negatively affected by the pandemic, regardless of their sociodemographic factors.

Knowledge, attitude and perception towards caesarean section among Malaysian women

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Caesarean section is a common surgery performed in our field, however, there were still women who did not accept this procedure when necessary. One of the reasons may be due to a lack of knowledge on the caesarean section itself. This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitude and perception towards the caesarean section among Malaysian women and investigate the association socio-demographic factors with the level of knowledge, attitude and perception towards the caesarean section among Malaysian women. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in Malaysia on 422 women aged 18 to 50 years old. An open and closed-ended questionnaire consisting of four sections; socio-demographic and obstetric history, knowledge and awareness, attitude and perception towards the caesarean section was used for data collection. The knowledge was grouped into good and poor using the median score as baseline whereas the attitude and perception were analysed by grouping it into positive and negative. **Results:** Majority of women in Malaysia have good knowledge and are aware of the caesarean section. There is an association between knowledge of the caesarean section with age, marital status, education level, occupation, household income, pregnancy and parity. There is also an association between the attitude towards the caesarean section with the age, marital status, education level, occupation, pregnancy and parity. However, there is no association of perceptions towards the caesarean section with the women's socio-demographic background. **Conclusions:** Most of Malaysian women have positive attitude and perception towards the caesarean section despite their socio-demographic characteristics variation.