BODY EXPOSED AND PRIVACY INVADED DURING LABOR

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Abstract

This research aimed to understand the concept of privacy expressed by mothers and identify if they felt their privacy invaded during the labor. It was structured as a transversal descriptive study with saturation data sample, in which after signing the Informed Consent Term, 18 mothers older than 18 who were in the rooming-in State Hospital Sumaré-SP were interviewed. In the data analysis was used collective subject discourse technique. It was observed that the concept of privacy in the view of these mothers is related to the kindness and respect they were treated, the request for permission to touch their bodies and the concern for their privacy during labor. Most of the women interviewed did not feel their privacy invaded and/or exposed. Keywords: privacy, nursing, labor.

Introduction

The disinformation and unknowledgment of their sexual and reproductive rights1 and of what happens to their bodies during labor, plus the different beliefs and values about the health-disease-care process caused women to submit their care, deconstructing their autonomy and ability to demand respect for their choices. During labor assistance, the routine of the Health Institution and its standardization depersonalize the patient, so the power posture adopted by professionals submits the patient to over exposure and actions often performed without consent, invading their privacy. Therefore, giving voice to women who have gone through this experience is necessary to understand the significance of their privacy right and how it is experienced within the hospital.

Results and Discussion

- What is privacy to you?
  Privacy is being respected, treated with courtesy:
  Privacy is perhaps respecting our problem. They ask permission before making the touch exam, right? At no time I felt expose, they were concerned all time with me and how I was feeling, I have no complaints. I was treated very well. Privacy is having your own space and not be bothered: Privacy is not being exposed or feeling invaded. All well reserved, the boxes are all separated, we are at least covered, with no one bothering you, it is an intimate thing. Like being me and my daughter alone in the room, having our moment and space.

- Did you feel that your privacy was invaded during labor and childbirth?
  Did not feel exposed or invaded: I think I was well-respected, did not feel exposed and it was all really calm (…) I was really well assisted.
  Feel its privacy invaded: It's a bit embarrassing for us women not used to make exams of this kind and having them done by a man. Touch exams made by a man make us feel our privacy invaded.

The concept of privacy presented three dimensions: one is related to the courtesy attitude of the professionals, another is related to the environment (because patients have the need for a more secluded and preserved environment) and the third is associated to the right the woman understands to have about her privacy. Some women reported that they did not have their privacy invaded because she was well attended by professionals: Different professionals and put their hand, but not I felt exposed. I felt I had more attention for being my first childbirth. On the other hand, unnecessary invasion of their privacy is expressed with a feeling of dissatisfaction and abandonment by patients: Sometimes we get a little more embarrassed, because we get almost naked during childbirth, without any kind of help on this matter.

Conclusions

The concept of privacy is related to the kindness and respect they were treated, the request for permission to touch their bodies and the concern for their privacy during labor. Most of the women interviewed did not feel their privacy invaded and/or exposed. It was also observed that the attitude of power used by the professionals and the interventionist model of childbirth care, added to the unknowledgment of the women about their own process, have given to these mothers a submissive behavior and a conformist attitude. Even feeling aggrieved somehow at some point of the labor, they maintained the posture of acceptance.

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References