

PERCEPTION ABOUT CAESAREAN DELIVERY ON MOTHERS' REQUEST AS SEEN AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINIC AT PLATEAU STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, JOS, NIGERIA

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Abstract

*There is great controversy over request for caesarean section. Potential risks include complication in sequence pregnancies, such as uterine rupture, placenta previa and accrete. Potential benefits of request for caesarean deliveries include a lower risk of postpartum haemorrhage in the first caesarean section and less surgical complication compared with vaginal delivery. The research used descriptive cross-sectional survey design. A random sampling technique was used for selecting 148 respondents for this study and well-structured self-administered questionnaire was used in collection of data with a reliability score of 0.85. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Similar frequencies and proportions were reported for categorical variables. **The demographic characteristics of respondents revealed that majority are within the age of 26 -35 years, married, Christian by religion and Plateau ethnic group. Majority of the students have tertiary education and are still students with 2 -4 children and had no caesarean section during delivery. Result of this study revealed that the perception of pregnant women about caesarean delivery is negative (48%) but their attitude is positive. Further findings show a general acceptance (56%) of caesarean delivery on mothers' request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at PSSH. In conclusion, improving women's knowledge about risks and benefit of different mode of delivery can lead to a positive material attitude.***

Keywords: Antenatal care, caesarean section, deliveries, mothers' request

Introduction

The preference of caesarean section by women about to deliver babies is giving impetus to the call for comparative analysis of the merits and demerits of the choice with respect to the wellbeing of mothers. Childbirth, the reproductive process, is the ending of pregnancy through where one or more babies are delivered from uterus either through the vagina or by caesarean section.

The childbirth experience has always presented as a very important event in women's lives, as a unique and special moment marked by the transformation of the women in her new role, as a mother. In developed countries, women often opt for caesarean delivery because of their improved understanding that it is predetermined, safe and increasing importance given to the right to self-decision making regarding mode of delivery (Li *et al.*, 2014). Caesarean section (CS) is one of the most frequently performed major abdominal surgeries; and is the most common obstetric operation performed worldwide. The origin of this procedure dates back to 100BC, but authoritative evidence about the early use of operation by obstetricians did not appear in the literature until the mid-17th century when the classical work of Francois Mauriceau was published (Aziken, Omo-Aghoja & Okonofua, 2007).

In developing nations like Nigeria, women are unwilling to have CS because of the general belief that abdominal delivery is the best reproductive process that ties mother and child together in spirit. And that the inability of a woman to undergo natural delivery is likened to failure of motherhood. Awareness of available alternatives to natural delivery like CS is mainly from tertiary health facilities situated in cities and in the Southern parts of the country. However, little is known about the perception and attitude of woman in Northern Nigeria towards caesarean section. There is no doubt that CS has contributed immensely to improved obstetric care throughout the world. However, it carries a significant higher maternal morbidity and mortality than vaginal delivery (Lee and D'Alton, 2008, Johanson and Newburn 2001; Fabri and Murta 2002; Nkwo and Onah, 2002).

In developed countries, women often accept CS because of their improved understanding of its role and safety. However, in developing countries like India, women are reluctant to accept Caesarean delivery because of their traditional beliefs and socio-cultural norms hence they even try to avoid hospital delivery and engage in the service of untrained and unskilled care providers. These women usually report to hospital with the threatening complication and in such situation most of the caesareans are performed

as an emergency procedure under suboptimal circumstances. In many sub-Saharan Africa countries, several reports indicate that women are often reluctant to accept Caesarean delivery. Indeed, a recent study reported a gross underutilization of CS throughout West Africa, compared to the large burden of obstetrics comorbidity requiring resolution by CS. The inadequate use of early CS in Africa countries has been identified as a key factor in the continuing high rate of material and perinatal morbidity in the region (Dogra % Sharma, 2017).

In developing countries especially sub-Sahara Africa, there is a great aversion to CS (Orji, Ogunniyi, Onwudiegwu, 2003; Fasubaa, Ogunniyi, Dare, Isawumi, Ezechi, Orji, 2003). In Nigeria, there is a high rate of default by pregnant women with previous caesarean section scars who are at high risk of subsequent uterine rupture. Some women with previous history of caesarean section only report to hospital when a complication arises after a trial of labour at home. In view of the place of this operation in present day obstetric practice, it is necessary to investigate the women's perception and attitude toward caesarean delivery on mother's request among pregnant women with the aim of achieving a wider acceptance of this operation whenever indicate.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to assess women's perception and attitude toward caesarean delivery on mother's request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at Plateau State Specialist Hospital (PSSH), Jos, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What is the perception of woman on caesarean delivery?
2. What is the attitude of woman towards caesarean delivery?
3. What is the acceptance level of caesarean delivery among woman?

Methodology

The research adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design. This study was carried out at the plateau state specialist hospital, Jos, Nigeria. Jos is the capital of plateau state with map coordination 9°56'N, 8°53'E. it is located in the middle belt area of area Nigeria with land mass of 391 per km and as at year 2006, the population of Jos was 900 000 (National population and housing census, 2006). Plateau state specialist hospital is a tertiary health institution that provides specialized medical services, trained health professionals and serves as a research center. It is presently structured into five major department and several minor functional units. The

major department include-administrative, medical and radiology, Nursing, pharmacy and laboratory respectively.

The population for this study was pregnant women between the ages of 18-50 who were attending antenatal clinic at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos. The sample size was determined using the Slovin's sample size formula. The sample size was 148. Simple random sampling technique was used for selecting 148 respondents for this study. A well-structured self-administered questionnaire was used in collection of data. It consists of four sections which are-the demographic data, perception and acceptance of caesarean delivery on maternal request by pregnant women. The questions were mainly yes or no as well as open and closed ended forms. Pilot test was done, test-retest reliability procedure and yielded reliability coefficient of 0.85. Three (3) research assistants were trained who were able to read, write and speak Hausa language and helped in data collection by face-to-face distribution of questionnaire to the respondents. Questionnaires were administered to readily available and accessible respondents. All data collected were entered into the microsoft excel spreadsheet, cleaned, collated and subsequently exported and analysed using the Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Simple frequencies and proportions were reported for categorical variables. The plateau state specialist hospital ethnical committee was consulted and ethical permission with registration number NHREC/05/01/2010b was obtained to conduct the research. Informed consent was obtained from each participant prior to enrolment and voluntary participation of subjects. Participants were guaranteed of their privacy as all information obtained in the course of participating in the study was considered confidential and by extension, research questionnaires did not contain any of the subject's identity.

Results

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic data of the respondents. Majority of the respondents were within the age range of 26-35 years, most 116(78.4%) were married and are of Christian religion 119(80.4%). The respondents were mostly 54(36.5%) plateau ethnic group, 30(20.3%) were Yoruba, 21(14.2%) Igbo while 10(6.8%) were Hausa. Most of these women 75 (50.7%) had educational level to tertiary level, 50 (33.8%) had secondary school certificate while 10(6.8%) completed Primary school education, 66 (44.6%) are students while 28 (18.9%) are full time house wives. More than half of these women 66 (60.0%) have between 2 to 4 other children. The demographic characteristics of respondents revealed that majority are within the age of 26 -35 years,

married, Christian by religion and Plateau ethnic group. Majority of the students have tertiary education and are still students with 2 -4 children and had no caesarean section during delivery.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Data of the Respondents

Items		N	%
Age	<25	61	41.2
	26- 35	77	52.0
	36- 45	10	6.8
	>50	0	0
	Total	148	100
Marital Status	Single	32	21.6
	Married	116	78.4
Total		148	100
Religion	Christian	119	80.4
	Muslim	29	19.6
	Total	148	100
Ethnic group	Igbo	21	14.2
	Hausa	10	6.8
	Yoruba	30	20.3
	Plateau ethnic group	54	36.5
	Others(specify)	33	22.3
	Total	148	100
Education	No formal education	13	8.8
	Primary	10	6.8
	Secondary	50	33.8
	Tertiary	75	50.7
	Total	148	100
Occupation	Housewife	28	18.9
	Civil servant	34	23.0
	Student	66	44.6
	Trader business woman	20	13.5
	Total	148	100

Number of Living Children			
1	29	26.4	
2-4			

Table 2: Perception of Caesarean Delivery on Mothers Request

Items	N%		
Is caesarean delivery a good mode of delivery?	Yes	82	55.4
	No	66	44.6
	Total	148	100
Does the health condition of a mother and baby determine the mode of delivery?	Yes	105	70.9
	No	43	29.1
	Total	148	100
Is caesarean section your preferred mode of delivery?	Yes	29	19.6
	No	119	80.4
	Total	148	100
Does previous use of caesarean section indicate that all other deliveries will be achieved through caesarean section?	Yes	46	31.1
	No	102	68.9
	Total	148	100

	66	60.0
	15	13.6
>4	148	100
Total		

Have You Ever Had Caesarean Section?		
Yes	49	33.1
No	99	66.9
Total	148	100

Research Questions One

1. What is the perception of woman on caesarean delivery?

As presented in Table 2, majority of the respondents 82 (55.4%) consider caesarean section as a good mode of **delivery** whereas 66 (44.6%) do not. It also showed that 105(70.9%) reported that it is the health condition of a mother and baby that determines the mode of delivery while 40 (29.1%) did not majority of the respondents 119 (80.4%) do not accept it as a preferred mode of delivery while least respondents 29 (19.6%) do. It also indicated most of the respondents 102 (68.9%) chose previous use of caesarean delivery does not indicate all other deliveries will be achieved through C.8S while 46(31.1%) of the respondents chose it would. 84 (56.7%) which formed majority of the respondents chose it is attributed to complications whereas 64(43.3%) did not. It also indicated 78 (52.7%) chose a woman who delivers by caesarean section misses an important life experience while 70 (47.3%) did not. Finally, it indicated 99 (66.9%) are willing to go for caesarean section if indicated while 49(33.1%) will not. This study concludes that the perception of pregnant women about caesarean delivery is negative (48%).

Is caesarean section mostly attributed to complications?	Yes	84	56.7
	No	64	43.3
	Total	148	100

Items	F%		
Does women who delivers her baby by caesarean section miss an important life experience?	Yes	78	52.7
	No	70	47.3
	Total	148	100

Research Questions Two

What is the attitude of woman towards caesarean delivery?

Results on Table 4 shows that most of the respondents 75 (50.7%) chose vaginal delivery does not does. It also pointed out that 101(68.2%) chose it is not preferable in the absence of economic problems while 47 (31.8%) chose it does. Majority of the respondents 81 (54.7%) chose it is requested because pain of vaginal delivery is unpleasant while 67 (45.3%) chose no. It also pointed out that majority of respondents 94

(63.5%) chose babies born by vaginal delivery are not healthier than those born by caesarean section whereas 54 (36.5%) chose they are. It showed 104 (70.3%) which are majority of the respondents chose it is a woman’s right to choose caesarean section while 44 (29.7%) chose it is not. create a more affectionate relationship between mother and baby while least 73 (49.3) chose it. This result shows positive attitude (50%) towards caesarean delivery on mothers’ request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at PSSH.

Table 4: Attitude Towards Caesarean Delivery on Mother’s Request

Items		F	%
Does vaginal delivery create a more affectionate mother- baby relationship?	Yes	73	49.3
	No	75	50.7
	Total	148	100
Is caesarean section preferable in the absence of economic problems?	Yes	47	31.8
	No	101	68.2
	Total	148	100
Is caesarean section requested because pain of vaginal delivery is unpleasant?	Yes	81	54.7
	No	67	45.3
	Total	148	100
Are babies born by vaginal delivery healthier than those delivered by caesarean section?	Yes	54	36.5
	No	94	63.5
	Total	148	100
Is it a woman’s right to choose caesarean delivery even if there are no medical reasons indicated for it?	Yes	104	70.3
	No	44	29.7
	Total	148	100
Will you request for caesarean section if you feel like delivering without pain?	Yes	78	52.7
	No	70	47.3
	Total	148	100
Will you advice your friend to go for caesarean section if she seeks your advice?	Yes	72	48.6
	No	76	51.4
	Total	148	100

Table 5: Acceptance of Caesarean Delivery on Mothers’ Request

Are you willing to go for caesarean section if indicated?	Yes	99	66.9
	No	49	33.1
	Total	148	100

Will you request for caesarean section if you feel like delivering With less pain?	Yes	78	52.7
	No	70	47.3
	Total	148	100
Will you advice your friend to go for caesarean section if she seeks			

Research Questions Three

What is the acceptance level of caesarean delivery among woman?

Table 5 indicated 99 (66.9%) are willing to go for caesarean section if indicated while 49 (33.1%) will not. Also, most of the respondents 78 (52.7%) will request for caesarean section if they felt like delivering with less pain while 70 (47.3%) will not. Finally, it connoted that majority of the respondents 76 (51.4%) chose they will not advice their friend to go for caesarean section if their advice were sought while 72 (48.6%) would. This result shows a general acceptance (56%) of caesarean delivery on mothers’ request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at PSSH.

Discussion of Results

This study explores the perception and attitude of pregnant women towards caesarean delivery on mother’s request (CDMR) as seen among patients attending antenatal clinic at Plateau State Specialist Hospital (PSSH), Jos. **The demographic characteristics of respondents revealed that majority are within the age of 26 -35years, married, Christian by religion and Plateau ethnic group. Majority of the students have tertiary education and are still students with 2 -4 children and had no caesarean section during delivery.** The findings revealed that the perception of caesarean delivery is negative (48%) among majority of the respondents. This is not in line with a similar study conducted in Northwest Nigeria as a high proportion of respondents had a good perception towards caesarean delivery. It also not in agreement with the study of Ezeonu et., al (2017) in which majority of the respondents, a hundred and seventy-two (82.3%) had high level of acceptance of caesarean delivery.

This result shows positive attitude (50%) towards caesarean delivery on mothers’ request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at PSSH. This study support Rivo et al., (2018) where majority of their respondents have a positive attitude towards caesarean delivery on mother’s request.

This result shows a general acceptance (56%) of caesarean delivery on mothers’ request among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at PSSH. This does not support the findings of Alaei and Motamedi, (2012) where 66.7% accepted vaginal

delivery as their preferred mode of delivery rather than caesarean delivery in the city of Kerman. This study is not in line with the study of Ghotbi et al., (2014) in which 35% of the mothers opted for CDMR.

Conclusion

This study was conducted in order to explore the perception and attitude of pregnant women towards caesarean delivery on mother’s request (CDMR) as seen among patients attending antenatal clinic at Plateau State Specialist Hospital (PSSH), Jos. The study revealed that there is a negative perception amongst women and their attitude positive towards caesarean delivery as women know it is a woman’s right to request for caesarean delivery and most are willing to request for it if they are willing to deliver without pain.

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