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Title: Assessment of Peripartum Psychological Disturbances in Relation to Modes of Delivery

Author(s): Radeef, AS (Radeef, Ali S.); Al-Kubaisi, MK (Al-Kubaisi, Muna Kh); John, AB (John, Akbar B.); Khairulnisa, AIN (Khairulnisa, Nur A., I) Source: MAKARA JOURNAL OF HEALTH RESEARCH Volume: 23 Issue: 1 Pages: 1-6 DOI: 10.7454/msk.v23i1.9773 Published: APR 2019 Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 0

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Abstract: Background: Anxiety disorders are common during peripartum period. This study aimed to identify which mode of delivery was more prone to develop psychological disturbances. Methods: This prospective cohort study conducted among 541 pregnant women presented for spontaneous labour, induction or elective caesarean section in a Malaysian hospital. The severity of depression, anxiety and stress symptoms are assessed by using self-rated depression anxiety and stress scales in four different occasions; pre-labour/operation, 24 hours postnatal, 2 weeks, and at 6 weeks. Results: In the prenatal period, there was no statistically significant difference in the mean score of depression between women coming for labour (4.17 +/- 5.28) and elective CS (4.21 +/- 5.87). During puerperium; at 24 hours postnatal, 2 weeks and 6 weeks assessments there was no significant difference in depression score among patients with different modes of delivery. The overall scores were (4.23 +/- 5.46, 3.26 +/- 4.85, 0.78 +/- 2.37, 0.18 +/- 0.93) for patients going through vaginal delivery, instrumentation, emergency or elective CS. The same trend was found when anxiety and stress were analysed. Conclusions: The most prominent peripartum psychological disturbances symptom is anxiety. Minority of patients will experience persistence anxiety by the end of 6 weeks postpartum. The caesarean section and induction of labour does not increase the psychological impact.

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Addresses: [Radeef, Ali S.] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Kulliyyah Med, Dept Psychiat, Kuantan 25200, Pahang, Malaysia.

[Al-Kubaisi, Muna Kh; Khairulnisa, Nur A., I] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Kulliyyah Med, Dept Obstet & Gynaecol, Kuantan 25200, Pahang, Malaysia. [John, Akbar B.] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Kulliyyah Sci, Kuantan 25200, Pahang, Malaysia.

Reprint Address: Al-Kubaisi, MK (reprint author), Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Kulliyyah Med, Dept Obstet & Gynaecol, Kuantan 25200, Pahang, Malaysia. E-mail Addresses: mkubaysi@gmail.com

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