

Giving birth: expectations & experiences of first time mothers in Switzerland.

Aim. To develop a model of the emerging expectations of the mode of giving birth and the subsequent experiences of healthy primigravid women in Switzerland.

Research questions:

- What are the expectations in early pregnancy of healthy primigravid women of giving birth?
- How do expectations change during pregnancy?
- What are the influences on these expectations?
- What were the experiences of giving birth?
- How did the experience of giving birth match the expectations?

Method. The hermeneutic method of Fleming et al (2003a) involving a five stage approach will be used to inform this study. Participants will be 65 healthy primigravid women, who will be recruited from four cantons in Switzerland, through obstetricians and midwives providing ante natal care. Each consenting woman will take part in four guided conversations at approximately 20 and 34 weeks of pregnancy, six weeks and six months postpartum. Data will be transcribed verbatim and analysed according to the chosen methodology from which a model will be generated. Strict ethical standards will be maintained throughout the project.

Context. This study is being carried out in the context of a rising caesarean section rate, the perceived desire of women for elective caesarean and increasing costs of care (Gibbons et al, 2010). No well carried out longitudinal studies have been published which identify women's changing expectations throughout and after pregnancy.

Outputs. Themes will be identified from which a model of expectations *vis a vis* experiences will be generated. This will in the future be used to develop a national questionnaire, which in turn will form the foundation for an epidemiological study.

Research team

Valerie Fleming, main applicant, ZHAW
Yvonne Meyer, other applicant HESAV
Bénédicte Michoud Bertinotti, lecturer,
HESAV
Laura Schirinzi, research assistant,
HESAV
Claire De Labrusse, lecturer, HESAV
Susanne Van Gogh, scientific
collaborator, ZHAW
Franziska Parpan, scientific
collaborator, ZHAW

Funding

SNSF, Division I

Duration

24 months