

Impacts of obstetric violence on Brazilian women: an integrative review*Impactos de la violencia obstétrica en las mujeres brasileñas: una revisión integradora**Impactos da violência obstétrica às mulheres brasileiras: uma revisão integrativa***Carla Fonseca Coelho¹**

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Abstract

The aim is to identify scientific studies about obstetric violence caused by health professionals and to evaluate its consequences. This is an integrative literature review of articles published in Portuguese selected from the VHL, WoS, SciELO and PubMed databases. The articles were chosen through the search with the descriptors: Obstetric violence, health professionals, women, Brazil and health impacts, using the Boolean operator AND as a tool for crossing the descriptors. Nine articles published in the period from 2015 to 2022 were reviewed. Obstetric violence can be associated with verbal and psychological offenses, for that it is necessary to detect the physical and psychological impacts of such impetuosity, since it has repercussions on trauma, pain, postpartum depression, development of anxiety and lower demand for health services after childbirth. It appears, therefore, the existence of limitations involving the theme, due to the scarcity of direct and objective literature, requiring the development of more research.

Descriptors: Obstetric Violence; Health Professionals; Women; Brazil; Health Impacts.

Resumen

El objetivo es identificar estudios científicos sobre la violencia obstétrica provocada por profesionales de la salud y evaluar sus consecuencias. Esta es una revisión integrativa de la literatura de artículos publicados en portugués seleccionados de las bases de datos BVS, WoS, SciELO y PubMed. Los artículos fueron seleccionados a través de la búsqueda con los descriptores: Violencia obstétrica, profesionales de la salud, mujeres, Brasil e impactos en la salud, utilizando el operador booleano AND como herramienta de cruce de los descriptores. Se revisaron 09 artículos publicados en el período de 2015 a 2022. La violencia obstétrica puede estar asociada a ofensas verbales y psicológicas, para ello es necesario detectar los impactos físicos y psicológicos de tal impetuosidad, ya que repercute en el trauma, dolor, puerperio depresión, desarrollo de ansiedad y menor demanda de servicios de salud después del parto. Aparece, por lo tanto, la existencia de limitaciones que envuelven el tema, debido a la escasez de literatura directa y objetiva, requiriendo el desarrollo de más investigaciones.

Descriptores: Violencia Obstétrica; Profesionales de la Salud; Mujeres; Brasil; Impactos en la Salud.

Resumo

Objetiva-se identificar estudos científicos acerca da violência obstétrica causada por profissionais da área da saúde e avaliar suas consequências. Trata-se de uma revisão integrativa da literatura de artigos publicados em português selecionados nas bases de dados BVS, WoS, SciELO e PubMed. Os artigos foram escolhidos por meio da busca com os descritores: Violência obstétrica, profissionais da saúde, mulheres, Brasil e impactos na saúde, sendo utilizado o operador booleano AND como ferramenta para o cruzamento dos descritores. Foram revisados 09 artigos publicados no período de 2015 a 2022. A violência obstétrica pode estar associada a ofensas verbais e psicológicas, para tanto é necessário detectar os impactos físicos e psicológicos de tal impetuosidade, visto que repercute em traumas, dores, depressão pós-parto, desenvolvimento de ansiedade e menor procura nos serviços de saúde após o parto. Depreende-se, portanto, a existência de limitações envolvendo a temática, devido à escassez na literatura direta e objetiva, sendo necessário o desenvolvimento de mais pesquisas.

Descritores: Violência Obstétrica; Profissionais da Saúde; Mulheres; Brasil; Impactos na Saúde.



Introduction

Obstetric violence is a recurrent act in Brazilian society, and can be defined as gender violence that consists of violating the exercise of women's sexual and reproductive health, committed by medical professionals or individuals involved in the care provided to injured patients. This term designates different clinical manifestations, being evidenced the physical, emotional and psychic damage, by practices of violence, aggression or omission during the gestational phase, childbirth, the puerperium or during the assistance to abortion situations^{1,2}.

The lack of clarification about the procedures by the medical team; the denial of the right to a companion during the hospitalization of the pregnant woman; the performance of procedures considered unnecessary without the patient's consent and the use of rude words that inhibit the woman from exercising her right are examples of obstetric violations. In this sense, it is worth emphasizing that medical conduct has been developed throughout human history and has constituted social values that define medical practice and contribute to the observance of ethical conducts, which are in line with the legal system and the system of social values. When professionals postulate non-observance of prohibitive and disrespectful behaviors towards women during childbirth, exemplified above, we have a rupture of medical know-how, when there is a transgression of permissive behavior^{3,4}.

In Contemporaneity, essentially in recent years, the focus of the study of violence during childbirth comes from feminist movements, essentially from communities with the objective of defending the rights and protection of women in the gestational stage, who must have autonomy

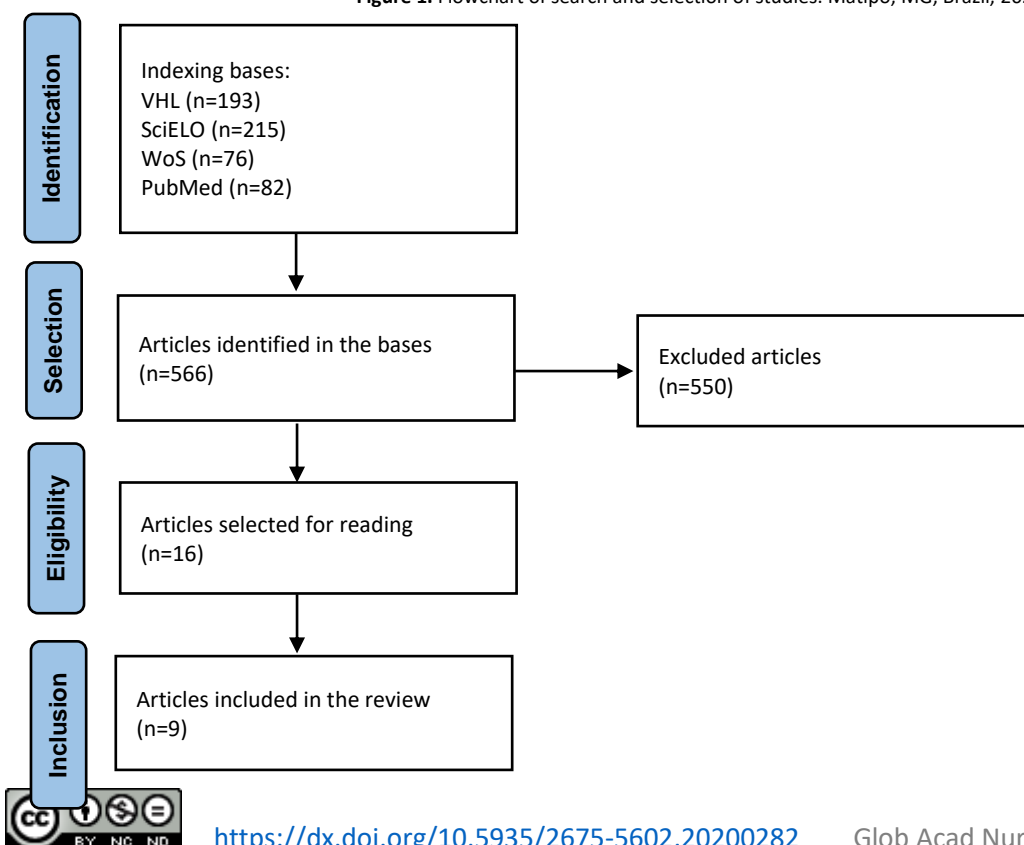
Furthermore, obstetric violence directly implies another Brazilian public health problem, the issue of maternal mortality, which is associated with the quality of health care offered to women. The adverse risks with the aggressive manipulation of vaginal delivery, the increased risks during childbirth from the patient's coercion to opt for cesarean section, the negligence and aggression of health professionals in caring for pregnant women or in situations of abortion and the impediment presence of a companion are factors that significantly interfere with maternal morbidity and mortality^{6,7}.

In this way, the present study aims to identify scientific studies about obstetric violence caused by health professionals as well as to evaluate the consequences of this act linked to clinical manifestations of a psychological and physical nature in women's lives, considering their rights and integrity at the time of pregnancy, delivery or abortion situation.

Methodology

This is an integrative literature review, which consists of a search for relevant research on a particular topic with the objective of identifying gaps that can be complemented with the elaboration of other studies. This research typology is developed through a series of steps⁸.

Figure 1. Flowchart of search and selection of studies. Matipó, MG, Brazil, 2022



The following steps must be taken for the elaboration of an integrative review: a) selection of the theme and elaboration of the guiding question of the research; b) selection of inclusion and exclusion criteria for the research that will constitute the study sample; c) joining of data that will be taken from the studies; d) critical evaluation of the chosen studies; e) understanding of the results; f) presentation of the established overview and review of the contents⁸.

The following question was formulated to guide the integrative review: "What are the impacts generated by obstetric violence, committed by health professionals, in the lives of women?".

For the selection of articles, the following databases were used: Virtual Health Library (VHL), Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) and Web of Science and National Library of Medicine (PubMed). In addition, the following Health Science Descriptors (DeCS) combined with Boolean operators were considered: "Obstetric violence" AND "Health professionals" AND "Women" AND "Brazil" AND "Impacts on Health".

The inclusion criteria for the research were articles published in Portuguese that answer the guiding question in the period between 2015-2022. Exclusion criteria were duplicate studies that were not available free of charge and in full-text.

The distinction occurred through the reading of titles, abstracts and, when necessary, the reading of the

texts in full as a form of screening according to the eligibility criteria. After the searches, a number of 16 articles were counted and after separation 07 researches were excluded. During this phase, the researchers examined the complete works in a thoughtful and independent way and, as a result, the selection was made.

In the verification process, data referring to the journal (title, year of publication) and to the study (objective, type of study, methodological aspects and results) were gathered. According to Bardin⁹, category, generally, is a conformation of thought, which mirrors reality, briefly, at specific moments; and presents the categorization criteria, that is, choice of categories (classification and aggregation).

The interpretation of the facts was supported by the results of the careful evaluation of the selected articles. The analysis of theoretical knowledge, establishment of conclusions and implications resulting from the integrative review was carried out. After the critical opinion, a final sample of 09 studies was obtained.

Results and Discussion

Chart 1 shows the results of the bibliographic study, which are arranged by year, authors, title and objectives. Of the 9 selected studies (Chart 1), 3 articles (33%) were found in SciELO, 6 of them (66%) were found in the VHL and 1 (1%) were found in the PubMed databases.

Chart 1. Characterization of studies. Matipó, MG, Brazil, 2022

YEAR	AUTHORS	TITLE	OBJECTIVE
2020	Silvia Badim Marques	Violência obstétrica no Brasil: um conceito em construção para a garantia do direito integral à saúde das mulheres	It seeks to bring health law closer to issues related to the guarantee of women's sexual and reproductive rights, as an inseparable part of the right to health, addressing the concept of obstetric violence and the legislative proposals that are being processed in the Brazilian National Congress on the subject.
2020	Paula Land Curi Mariana Thomaz de Aquino Ribeiro Camilla Bonelli Marra	A violência obstétrica praticada contra mulheres negras no SUS	Examine obstetric violence against black women in the Unified Health System (SUS), based on internship and university extension experiences in Psychology, in public maternity hospitals, of different levels of complexity, in line with Scientific Initiation research Pibic/CNPq.
2020	Patrícia da Costa Teixeira Ludmila Santos Antunes Thaís da Silva Oliveira Victoria Velloso Gabriela Priscila Goveia Faria Leila Tomazinho de L. Duamarde	Percepção das parturientes sobre violência obstétrica: A dor que querem calar	Identify the knowledge of parturients about obstetric violence, determine whether they can identify the main actions present in obstetric violence, and detect the physical and psychological impacts of obstetric violence.
2021	Mariana Gouvêa de Matos Andrea Seixas Magalhães	Violência obstétrica e trauma no parto: o relato das mães	Investigate the experience called obstetric violence in the reports of mothers. Thus, the reports of five women were analyzed, the only ones who made reference to this phenomenon.



2021	Amanda Reis Trajano Edna Abreu Barreto	Violência obstétrica na visão de profissionais de saúde: a questão de gênero como definidora da assistência ao parto	Analyze obstetric violence through the gender bias based on the narrative of health professionals who provide childbirth care.
2021	Kelly Diogo de Lima Camila Pimentel Tereza Maciel Lyra	Disparidades raciais: uma análise da violência obstétrica em mulheres negras	Understand and analyze the experiences of black women about care during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.
2015	Simone Grilo Diniz Heloisa de Oliveira Salgado Halana Faria de Aguiar Andrezza Paula Galdino Cardin de Carvalho Priscila Cavalcanti A. Carvalho Cláudia de Azevedo Aguiar Denise Yoshie Niy	Violência obstétrica como questão para a saúde pública no Brasil: origens, definições, tipologia, impactos sobre a saúde materna, e propostas para a sua prevenção	After a brief historical recovery of the theme, the definitions and typologies of violence identified are mapped.
2017	Ligia Moreiras Sena Charles Dalcanale Tesser	Violência obstétrica no Brasil e o ciberativismo de mulheres mães: relato de duas experiências	Relate the confrontation of obstetric violence in Brazil and the cyberactivism of women, especially women mothers.
2022	Tatiana Henriques Leite Emanuele Souza Marques Ana Paula Esteves-Pereira Marina Fisher Nucci Yammê Portella Maria do Carmo Leal	Desrespeitos e abusos, maus tratos e violência obstétrica: um desafio para a epidemiologia e a saúde pública no Brasil	Discuss and reflect on how issues related to definition and terminology, measurement and public policies in Brazil have hampered research on the subject, as well as the mitigation of these acts.

First reports of obstetric violence

Obstetric violence gained prominence in the second decade of the 21st century, becoming the subject of several studies, but the frequency of suffering in childbirth was recorded at different historical moments. Thus, in the US in the late 1950s, reports of obstetric violence were reported in the Ladies Home Journal describing childbirth practices in unconscious women. In Brazil, the agenda had already been raised in feminist movements in the 1980s, highlighting the feeling of helplessness and in the Comprehensive Women's Health Care Program (PAISM), which reported the lack of interest of professionals in the subject and the poor women's lack of access to essential services⁵.

In Brazil, the expression "obstetric violence" is applied to detail numerous forms of violence from the beginning of pregnancy, to childbirth and postpartum. Thus, in recent years, several determinations and classifications have been analyzed by the WHO, mentioning essential categories that can be verified in the institutions of study.⁶

Obstetric violence: history

Right to health and comprehensive assistance to women's health

From a historical perspective, the path of the social movement that legitimized the notions of women's health in relation to reproductive rights in the Brazilian public sphere is very recent. Therefore, it is important to point out that women have rights provided for by law especially related to health that are in the Brazilian

constitutional health system, some of them are programs such as PAISM, the Rede Cegonha do SUS, the Law of the Companion and some conventions in favor of of women's health.

The WHO defines as obstetric violence any dehumanized, disrespectful attitude, mistreatment and negligence of the health team against the parturient or newborn that may cause damage and/or suffering, both physical and psychological. Therefore, failure to comply with any of these rights is considered Obstetric Violence^{3,7}.

The Comprehensive Assistance to Women's Health Program (PAISM) was a milestone in the approach to women's health. It includes educational, preventive, diagnosis, treatment and recovery actions, encompassing assistance to women in gynecological clinics, prenatal care, childbirth and puerperium, climacteric, family planning, STI, cervical and breast cancer. , in addition to other needs identified from the women's population profile. We also have the SUS Stork Network, which is a package of actions to ensure quality, safe and humanized care for all women¹.

Law n.º 11.108/2005, known as the companion law, inserted in the Organic Health Law, Law n° 8.080/90 (26), the right of parturient women to the presence of a companion during labor, delivery and postpartum immediate delivery, in the SUS. Despite being violated in several hospitals and maternity hospitals, the law also represents an achievement in favor of women's rights¹.

In addition to these, Brazil has some conventions in favor of women's rights, such as the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women, of 1948; Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1953;



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 1966; American Convention on Human Rights, San José, 1969; Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw), 1979. All these conventions are intended to ensure the improvement of the health of women as a whole. Counting that health is a right for all, it is extremely important that women know their rights during the gestational and puerperal period, in order to guarantee and encourage the search for improved assistance to women as one of the human rights guaranteed by our Constitution¹⁻⁵.

Post-obstetric violence

The literature on disrespect, abuse, mistreatment and obstetric violence encompasses a small number of studies focusing on the consequences of these acts on the health of women and, in some cases, the newborn. Despite this, there are some hypotheses and studies regarding the impacts caused^{5,10}.

The violence suffered by women can have physical and psychological repercussions, such as trauma, pain, postpartum depression, the probability of developing anxiety and lower demand for health services after childbirth. In addition, considering that one of the components of disrespect, abuse, maltreatment and obstetric violence is neglect, the likely outcomes cited are an increase in the occurrence of maternal near miss and maternal and fetal mortality²⁻⁷.

The obstetric violence caused physical consequences in the victims resulting from the Kristeller maneuver, which resulted in pain in the ribs, as well as pain in the genitalia, as a result of the episiotomy. Part of the

Conclusion

This integrative review made it possible to know and analyze the national scientific production on obstetric violence in the period from 2015 to 2022. Therefore, the present research exposed the need for interventions in the current situation of the health service due to the various impacts caused to the physical and psychological health of women who suffer from obstetric violence.

It was possible to identify several limitations when carrying out the study on obstetric violence. Therefore, there is a shortage in the literature involving studies that directly and objectively address the problem, resulting in the need to develop more research, especially quantitative ones, to serve as a subsidy and basis for the development of new works and future public policies.

The frequent episodes of obstetric violence have triggered broad debates and exposed the need to implement new public health interventions that change this situation. Several studies highlighted the impacts of obstetric violence on Brazilian women and the study was able to summarize the impacts on the health of Brazilian women. Therefore, this review, when exposing the consequences of violent obstetric practices to women's physical and mental health, may help to raise awareness and change these practices, minimizing the effects on the parturient.

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