

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Women's Perceptions of Pain and Discomfort after Childbirth in Angola

Elisabeth Jangsten^{1,2*}, Roland Strand³, Engrácia da Glória Gomez de Freitas⁴, Anna-Lena Hellström², Annika Johansson³ and Staffan Bergström³

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden¹; Institute of Nursing, The Sahlgrenska Academy at Göteborg University, Gothenburg, Sweden²; Division of International Health (IHCAR), Department of Public Health Sciences³ Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. ⁴Curso de Especialização de Parterias, Ministerio de Saúde, Luanda, Angola⁴

*For Correspondence: E-mail: elisabeth.jangsten@vgregion

Abstract

Prophylactic treatment against postpartum haemorrhage is a widely investigated area and injection of Oxytocics has been considered as the best choice. The occurrence of postpartum pain and discomfort was studied in a population of birthing women in an overcrowded labour ward in Angola where the oxytocin-filled device Uniject™ was used. This study indicates that birthing women's perceived postpartum pain increases with parity and during breastfeeding, but does not confirm that injection of oxytocin increases pain and discomfort. This is an important finding, since it might facilitate the introduction of a management practice, likely to reduce haemorrhage-related maternal morbidity and mortality after delivery in underprivileged populations. The birthing women were, by and large, satisfied with the care and treatment provided, but the encounters with midwives seem to vary in quality. Further investigation is needed to elucidate parturient women's experience of postpartum pain and their perceptions of the quality of care and treatment. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2005; 9[3]:148-158)

Keywords: Postpartum haemorrhage, third stage of labour, labour pain, satisfaction with care

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