






Exploring the Psychological Effects of Childbirth Trauma on Women's Subsequent Birth Experiences

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Childbirth trauma can result from various factors including prolonged labor emergency medical interventions lack of support and perceived loss of control during delivery" would benefit from specific citations for each factor listed to strengthen the argument.

The prevalence of PTSD following childbirth is well-documented; however, adding statistical data or specific prevalence rates from cited studies would enhance the impact of this statement.

The inclusion criteria mention "a recognized traumatic childbirth event as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)". Please specify the criteria used from DSM-5 to define a traumatic childbirth event.

The sentence "I felt like I was in a dark hole unable to find joy in anything even my new baby" is impactful. It would be beneficial to compare this sentiment with similar findings in existing literature to highlight common experiences.

The sentence "I would relive the traumatic moments over and over again in my mind especially at night" could be strengthened by detailing the specific PTSD symptoms experienced by participants as outlined in DSM-5.

The description "I kept thinking it was my fault that things went wrong" would benefit from discussing how this self-blame might impact postpartum recovery and parenting.

The sentence "I didn't want to see anyone or talk about what happened" could be expanded by exploring how social support systems were affected or how they could be improved to aid recovery.

The statement "Talking to a therapist really helped me process my feelings and understand that I wasn't alone" would be strengthened by discussing specific therapeutic approaches that were found to be effective.

The importance of practical help and open communication could be expanded by providing examples of how family and friends were involved and what types of support were most beneficial.

In the sentence "I tried to focus on the fact that both my baby and I survived," consider discussing the psychological theories that support positive reframing as a coping mechanism.

The practices listed (exercise, meditation, healthy eating, journaling) are diverse. Consider providing a brief overview of how each practice specifically contributes to psychological well-being postpartum.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the sentence "Each interview was conducted in a private setting either in person or via a secure online platform," clarify the percentage of interviews conducted in person versus online to provide context on data collection methods.

The description of the thematic analysis approach is thorough; however, consider adding a brief example of how initial codes were generated and how themes were identified to provide more clarity on the process.

In the subtheme "Anxiety and Fear," the quote "Every time I thought about giving birth again my heart would race and I couldn't breathe" is powerful. Including a context or background about this participant's initial traumatic birth could provide deeper insight.

The role of religious and spiritual beliefs in coping with trauma could be elaborated by including examples of specific practices or rituals participants engaged in.

The description "I made sure to have a detailed birth plan and chose a doctor I trusted completely" could benefit from discussing how these strategies influenced their birth experience and outcomes.

The sentence "I was terrified of getting pregnant again and going through the same ordeal" could be expanded by exploring how this fear affected participants' decisions about family planning and pregnancy spacing.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.