

How do men experiment the decision making about their partner's labor induction ?



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Introduction

In French-speaking Switzerland around one birth out of every three is induced (OFSP, 2019).

Ideally, such a situation should be handled through a shared medical decision (HAS, 2013; NICE, 2020) with regard to the health benefits and risks for the mother-to-be and the newborn (Boulvain & Jastrow Meyer, 2015).

It is recommended to include fathers-to-be in this decision-making as the privileged partner of the pregnant woman (Bohren et al. 2019) and the father of the unborn child (Family Included, 2016; Gallagher & Wise, 2012).

Méthod*** : a phenomenological study

Seven semi-structured interviews were conducted with fathers-to-be via the Zoom application from June to August 2020.

Their partner's labor induction was scheduled the same day or the day after, in the maternity ward at Geneva University Hospitals.

Each interview was transcribed verbatim and then data analysis was carried out using the Giorgi's method (1985) and the Maxqda 2018 software.

Double coding was made to improve the realiability and validity of the research.

Objective

Describing men's experience in the decision-making process leading to induction of labor in their partner.



• Sandro : "Well, making the decision with my wife was really easy. No need to say, we have a true relationship. So there at the very moment, we just looked at each other and that was it...we talked about it at home : what shall we do if we had to

isn't much to say. "

Being two when the couple makes their choice as being one

Being three throughout the prenatal consultation during which the perceived choice in front of the professionals varies according to the stories

• Fatmir : "It'a not a decision we made about inducing or not."

• Rémi : "That was really a true interaction and we were said don't worry we can try to plan it as a possibility. '

not being an expert : knowledge as a condition that legitimizes taking an active role

Being an expert or

Inducing childbirth, a choice of reason: "A good thing for a beautiful thing"

• Faruk : "Of course a preference for a spontaneous birth but in the end it doesn't change anything."



• Rachid : "I don't want to wait for bad consequences in the end. (...) So, if it is a good thing for a beautiful thing, let's go for it. "

Results

Photographies : Bävman J. (2016). Exposition «MenCare les papas suisses». [https://www.maenner.ch/fr/projets-mencare-mencare/les-papas-suisses/

Conclusion

Professionals can strengthen the role of men in this process by giving the couple time for discussion before the final decision is made.

A perceived lack of choice or a lack of information on the benefits and risks of labor induction worsens the experience of the father-to-be : avenues for improvement should be considered to upgrade a good shared medical decision.

New studies are needed to understand better the space given to men in perinatal decision-making processes.

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