Midwives’ practice during the second stage of physiological labour: A systematic review


Document Version:
Peer reviewed version

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal

Publisher rights
Copyright 2019 The Author.

General rights
Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy
The Research Portal is Queen's institutional repository that provides access to Queen's research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

Download date:17. Aug. 2019
Abstract Nordic Midwifery Conference Reykjavik May 2019

Midwives’ practice during the second stage of physiological labour: A systematic review

Dr Maria Healy, Dr Viola Nyman, Dr Dale Spence, Rene Otten & Dr Corine Verhoeven

Background

A midwife’s practice can be influenced by education and cultural practices, but ultimately it should be based on current research evidence. It is a research priority, to identify midwifery care that optimises and interrupts the physiological processes for women and their babies during childbirth (Kennedy et al., 2016; WHO 2018). Subsequently, international midwifery researchers (from Northern Ireland, The Netherlands and Sweden) undertook a systematic review of midwives’ practice during the second stage of physiological labour, aiming to improve the quality of intrapartum care, inform education and future research.

Methods:

Systematic searches of PubMed, EMBASE.com, Cinahl, PsycINFO, Maternity and Infant Care and The Cochrane Library were undertaken initially from inception then, revised from January 2008 to May 2018. MeSH terms were mainly utilised with no language restrictions. Covidence software aided the researchers to comprehensively screen each study (two researchers per full text review). Reference lists were hand searched, data extraction undertaken, and following quality appraisal studies were included. The protocol was registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO; Registration CRD42018088300).

Findings/Conclusion:

The review systematically collated pertinent literature by initially retrieving 10,510 hits. Following analysis and synthesis, findings revealed different midwifery practices relating to care during second stage of labour e.g. birth positions, pushing techniques and care of the perineum. By implementing this evidence, midwives can enable women during second stage of labour to optimise physiological processes to give birth. Notably however, there is a dearth of evidence relating to midwives’ practice which provides a positive experience for women during second stage of labour. This may reflect, that not all midwives’ practices are researched and documented. This systematic review undoubtedly contributes to formulating global midwifery practice, education and future research recommendations to support high quality intrapartum care for women during second stage of labour.
Key words

Physiological birth, midwifery care, midwives practice, second stage of labour