PURPOSE

To compare the difference in the perineal infection rates following vaginal deliveries in women birthing in water and those delivering traditionally.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Is there a difference in the rates of infection following perineal tears between the water birthing method versus the traditional birthing method in California?

BACKGROUND

- Approximately 75% of all women who give birth vaginally will suffer from various levels of birth lacerations (Lundquist, Olsson, Nissen, & Norman, 2000)
- One in ten women who received a perineal laceration during a vaginal delivery later developed an infection (Johnson, Thakar, & Sultan, 2012)

METHODS

- Approach:
  - Physiologic quantification of infection rate
- Procedure:
  - Approval from IRB
  - Universal training for involved healthcare staff
  - Retrospective chart review
  - Maintenance of confidentiality
    - Anonymous identification
    - Paperwork locked in filing system
- Measures:
  - Measurement tool: oral electronic thermometer
    - ≥ 38°C determines the presence of infection
  - Recalibration will occur on a regular basis according to birthing center protocol in order to prevent measurement error

DATA ANALYSIS

Test Used:
- Chi Square test of independence
- Is infection present or absent based on temperature?
- P value set at 0.05 (5%)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(observed - expected)^2}{expected}$$

REFERENCES


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