

Experience on the Implementation of Integrated Respectful Birth Practices in a Public Hospital in Chile

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Summary

San Juan de Dios Hospital has implemented a respectful birth care model, highlighting the exclusive accompaniment of midwives. A team of midwives has received ongoing training in practices supported by the World Health Organization (WHO)(7), leading a change towards a care model focused on the needs of women and their families(9).

Keywords: respectful birth, non-pharmacological measures, comprehensive support

General Objective

To share the experience of implementing respectful birth practices at the San Juan de Dios Hospital to promote their adoption and improvement in other health establishments.

Methodology

Narrative methodology (4) was used to explore the experiences of professionals involved in the implementation of respectful birth. Narrative data collection was based on personal accounts from midwives, allowing a detailed understanding of the changes that occurred. In addition, research entitled 'Evaluation of Respectful Obstetric Practices and their Impacts on Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes at San Juan de Dios Hospital, Chile' is being conducted and is in the process of being accepted by the hospital's ethics committee.

Results

The experiential results show a notable reduction in unnecessary interventions, such as episiotomies and rupture of membranes, and a low incidence of maternal and fetal complications (2,3,6). Women have expressed feeling motivated and happy to be accompanied throughout the birthing process (11). Midwives have highlighted the positive impact of these practices in their daily work, increasing their job satisfaction and commitment (10). In addition, collaborative strategies have been established with academia to integrate the importance of this model in the training of future professionals (5).

Conclusion

The implementation of respectful birth at the San Juan de Dios Hospital has been transformative, highlighting the challenges, achievements and learnings of the midwifery team. This initiative has contributed to more positive and humanized childbirth care, and it is recommended to replicate this model in other health centers and strengthen public policies that promote respectful birth at the national level (8,12).

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