Effect of prior awareness/ experience on knowledge and attitude of women regarding epidural analgesia

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ABSTRACT
Pain during labor is the most crucial and painful stage for most of the women. Epidural analgesia is a local anesthetic injection in lumber region at L2 and L3 or L3 and L4 space. It is a reliable method of pain control during labor without affecting maternal and fetal condition. It is most common pain relief procedure in developed countries but in developing countries like Pakistan, it is not very common. The objective of this study is to see the effect of prior awareness / experience on knowledge and attitude of women regarding epidural analgesia. In Pakistan, there is lack of awareness about different pain control methods during labor which makes the delivery process too painful for most of the women which ultimately affect their psychological life.

This study was conducted in three private hospitals of Karachi. Sample size of 138 was selected (antenatal and postnatal women), questionnaire were distributed and reliability of tool was checked before the distribution by three content experts. Data was analyzed on SPSS version 20. Results of the study showed that women with prior exposure/ awareness of epidural analgesia have more knowledge about service availability, more satisfaction level and correct information about complications. There is lack of awareness and counseling during antenatal visits and most of the women don’t even know about the service availability.

Keywords: Labor pain, epidural analgesia, antenatal care