



The correlation between perineal body length and obstetric perineal laceration among Filipino primigravid patients in a tertiary hospital

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Introduction

Currently, there are conflicting studies on the perineal body length as an independent risk factor affecting degree of perineal laceration in Asian and Western countries. This study aims to establish the correlation of perineal body length and obstetric perineal lacerations in primigravid patients. It intends to establish perineal body length as an independent risk factor of an obstetric perineal laceration.

Objective

To determine the relationship between perineal body length and obstetric perineal laceration among Filipino primigravid patients in a tertiary hospital

Methods and Results

▪ This was a cross-sectional, prospective study of primigravid patients in active stage of labor admitted at a tertiary hospital. Inclusion criteria were term, singleton pregnancies and in vertex presentation. A total of 139 primigravids were recruited and underwent measurement of perineal body length by the resident-physician. Other delivery characteristics were recorded. Data were analyzed using Spearman rank-order association and Fisher's exact test of association.

▪ Birthweight ($P < 0.203$) and type of episiotomy ($P < 0.012$) were associated with second, third, and fourth degree lacerations in primigravid women. Other maternal, neonatal and surgical factors were not statistically significant. Moreover, the study presented that Filipino primigravid has an average perineal body length of 2.7 centimeters. The result of the study showed that perineal body length has no significant correlation with the degree of perineal laceration incurred ($P < 0.84$).

Conclusion

This is the first study to present normative data on perineal length for Filipino primigravid in correlation with outcomes of vaginal deliveries. Birthweight and type of episiotomy were associated with higher order lacerations. Moreover, perineal body length has no significant correlation with the degree of vaginal laceration incurred.

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