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The Relationship of Postpartum Mother's Knowledge and Perineum Wound Care Behavior

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Abstract

Postpartum infections still play a role as one of the leading causes of maternal death, especially in developing countries like Indonesia. The main factor causing infection during the postpartum period is poor care of the perineum. Mothers do not know enough about caring for perineal wounds, such as washing hands before cleaning genitalia and drying genitalia after defecating and urinating. The research aimed to determine the relationship between postpartum mothers' knowledge and perineal wound care behavior at TPMB Kuswatiningsih. This research method is quantitative research using a cross-sectional approach. The sample was taken using the accidental sampling method with 39 respondents. The tool in this research was a questionnaire. The statistical test used the Kendall Tau test with a p-value <0.05. The statistical test results obtained a p-value of p- value= .015 (p-value=<0.05) and a correlation coefficient value of 0.925, so it can be concluded that the relationship between the variable Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers and Perineal Wound Care Behavior is solid. The suggestion for TPMB Kuswatiningsih is that it is hoped that health workers will be more active in providing health education to the community, especially mothers, regarding postpartum care and perineal wound care.

Keywords: *Knowledge, Mother, Postpartum, Wound Care*

Introduction

Postpartum infections still play a role as one of the leading causes of maternal death, especially in developing countries like Indonesia. Other factors that cause postpartum infections include the poor immune system, poor postpartum care, malnutrition, anemia, and poor hygiene. Well, and tired. Poor perineum care is the main factor causing infection during the postpartum period [1]. The causes of maternal death in Indonesia in 2021 are still dominated by bleeding (1,280 cases), hypertension in pregnancy (1,066 cases), and infection (207 cases), showing that only 47% of potential infections occurring on the seventh day, with 78% of infections occurring on the seventh day. 14th, and 90% on the 21st day [2]. According to research [3], care in the postpartum period must be a concern because it is estimated that 60% of maternal deaths due to pregnancy occur after delivery, and 50% of postpartum deaths occur in the first 24 hours. The leading causes of maternal death are bleeding 30.3%, hypertension 27.1%, infection 7.3%, and others 40.8%. Mastitis, urinary tract infections, infections in episiotomies or lacerations, and other diseases usually cause morbidity in the early weeks postpartum.

Knowledge is a significant factor in shaping a person's actions, so a lack of knowledge about treating perineal wounds during the postpartum period can influence a person to pay attention to the safety of the mother and baby. So, maternal knowledge about perineal wound care is essential to reducing the high MMR and IMR in Indonesia [4]. Impact of perineal wound care behavior Improper care of the perineum can result in the condition of the perineum being affected by lochia and moisture, which will significantly support the growth of bacteria, which can cause infections in the perineum. The

emergence of infection in the perineum can spread to the urinary tract or birth canal, which can result in complications of bladder infections or infections in the birth canal, and postpartum infections are one of the causes of postpartum maternal death. Factors that influence the healing of postpartum maternal perineal wounds. Namely knowledge, early mobilization, nutrition, type of wound, and how to treat it [5].

According to other research conducted by Ref. [6] on the factors that influence the healing of perineal wounds, the results showed that postpartum mothers who had five perineal wounds with good hygiene had a 27,741 times better chance of healing their wounds when compared with mothers postpartum women who practice poor hygiene, so cleanliness is the main factor in healing perineal wounds.

The research aims to investigate the relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers and their perineal wound care behavior at TPMB Kuswatiningsih, leveraging data indicating that 195 postpartum mothers experienced perineal wounds. Specifically, the study seeks to understand how knowledge influences perineal wound care behavior among postpartum mothers, as indicated by initial assessments revealing disparities in care practices among respondents. By examining the correlation between knowledge levels and adherence to proper wound care behaviors, the research aims to provide insights into potential interventions or educational strategies aimed at improving postpartum care practices and reducing complications associated with perineal wounds.

Material and Methods

The research design used in this research is quantitative research. The type of research used was quantitative and used a cross-sectional approach to determine the relationship between knowledge and behavior of postpartum mothers and perineal wound care. This research was conducted at TPMB Kuswatiningsih. The population in this study consisted of postpartum mothers who gave birth and had postpartum visits at TPMB Kuswatiningsih, with a total of 195 respondents. Sampling in this study used accidental sampling, namely a sampling technique by taking cases or respondents who happened to be present or available in a place according to the research context. The samples in this study all fit into the inclusion criteria of mothers who gave birth, had postpartum follow-up visits, had BCG immunization, and were willing to be respondents. So, the sample in this study was 39 postpartum mothers.

The research instrument used in this study was a questionnaire. The knowledge questionnaire for postpartum mothers had 25 questions, and the wound care behavior questionnaire had 15 questions, which were tested for validity and reliability by 30 people. After that, the data is processed manually and entered into a master table, and the data processing is analyzed through univariate and bivariate statistical tests using a frequency distribution using a computer with the following stages: Editing, Scoring, Coding, Entry, Tabulation, and Cleaning, finally, all data is carried out through univariate testing. SPSS. The research ethics carried out are ensuring the confidentiality of respondents. Request approval from the ethics committee so this research can be carried out and pass the ethical requirements test. This research complies with ethics no. No. 1778/KEP-UNISA/VIII/2023

Results and Discussions

A. Respondent Characteristics

Table 1 depicts the demographic profile of the respondents, revealing that among the total of 39 participants, 17 individuals (43.6%) were predominantly mothers aged 25-35 years. Regarding educational attainment, the majority of respondents, comprising 26 individuals (66.7%), held a high school degree.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents

Criteria	Freq. (N)	Percentage
Age		
<25 years	6	15.4
25-35 years	17	43.6
>36 years old	16	41.0
Education		
Junior High School	6	15.4
Senior High School	26	66.7
Vocational School	7	17.9
Work		
IRT (Housewife)	24	61.5
Self-employed	9	23.1
Laborer	4	10.3
Factory Employees	2	5.1
Total	39	100.0

Furthermore, a significant portion of the participants, 24 respondents (61.5%), reported being engaged in household duties. The age distribution among the respondents varied, with the youngest age category (<25 years) represented by six individuals (15.4%), while the age group of 25-36 years constituted the highest proportion with 16 respondents (43.6%). This study is consistent with prior research conducted by Ref. [7], which similarly observed a predominant age range of 20-35 years among participants, comprising 100% of the sample. Age holds significance in influencing cognitive abilities, with advancing age correlating with enhanced comprehension and cognitive patterns. Individuals aged 20-35 are often characterized by heightened societal involvement, proactive adaptation to aging, and increased intellectual engagement, contributing to sustained cognitive functions such as problem-solving and verbal skills.

Educational background emerged as a key determinant of knowledge levels among the respondents, with the majority, accounting for 66.7%, possessing a high school education, consistent with findings by Ref. [8]. Notably, 62.5% of the participants held a high school degree, while 28.5% had pursued education at the collegiate level. Education plays a pivotal role in facilitating information absorption and knowledge acquisition, while also fostering the development of attitudes towards emerging societal values. This aligns with the assertion made by Ref. [9].

Analysis of occupation distribution revealed that the largest segment of respondents, comprising 61.7%, identified as domestic workers, consistent with the research conducted by Ref. [10]. Specifically, homemakers constituted the majority, accounting for 59.4% of the sample. The prevalence of homemakers within the study population suggests that they may have more discretionary time available for undertaking caregiving responsibilities, including the meticulous management of perineal wound

care among postpartum mothers, thereby potentially expediting the healing process. This observation gains further credence and support from the comprehensive findings of Ref. [11], which reinforce the notion that homemakers play a significant role in the meticulous management of perineal wound care among postpartum mothers.

B. Custom data

The research findings, as presented in Table 2 and Table 3, indicate that among the respondents, 32 individuals exhibited good knowledge (82.1%), characterized by 28 participants (71.8%) demonstrating correct perineal wound care behavior. Conversely, four respondents (10.3%) exhibited incorrect wound care behavior despite possessing good knowledge. Additionally, six participants (15.4%) were classified as having sufficient knowledge, with 12.8% adhering to correct care behavior and 2.6% displaying erroneous care practices. Only one respondent (2.6%) demonstrated insufficient knowledge, with a corresponding single individual (2.6%) exhibiting correct wound care behavior.

Table 2. Description of Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers

Knowledge	Freq. (N)	Percentage
Good	32	82.1
Enough	6	15.4
Not enough	1	2.6
Total	39	100.0

Table 3. Description of Perinual Wound Care Behavior

Behavior	Freq. (N)	Percentage
Good	35	89.7
Enough	4	10.3
Not enough	0	0
Total	39	100.0

The observed correlation between knowledge and behavior aligns with Laurance Green's theory as elucidated by Ref. [12], which posits that while an increase in knowledge may not invariably induce behavioral changes, a relationship exists between knowledge and behavioral modifications. In the context of health-related actions, knowledge serves as a crucial component within the framework of predisposing factors. Behavioral responses, including those related to wound care, are influenced by individuals' values, beliefs, and interests, which can be shaped by their level of knowledge. Behavioral responses, including those associated with wound care, are intricately influenced by individuals' values, beliefs, and interests, all of which are significantly shaped by their level of knowledge. This assertion is reinforced by Ref. [13] systematic literature review, which underscores the critical role of knowledge in shaping attitudes, intentions, and behaviors, particularly in the context of green infrastructure for flood management.

Therefore, the understanding of wound care behavior is intricately linked to the knowledge base of individuals. As posited by behavioral theory, predisposing factors such as knowledge play a pivotal role

in shaping health-related actions. Thus, interventions aimed at enhancing perineal wound care behavior should encompass strategies to bolster knowledge acquisition and address underlying beliefs and attitudes to foster optimal care practices among postpartum mothers.

Based on the findings presented in Table 4, it is evident that among the respondents, 32 individuals (82.1%) exhibited commendable knowledge levels. Among this group, 28 participants (71.8%) demonstrated correct care behavior, while four respondents (10.3%) displayed incorrect wound care practices. Additionally, six participants (15.4%) were categorized as possessing sufficient knowledge, with 12.8% adhering to correct care behavior and 2.6% engaging in incorrect practices. Moreover, one respondent (2.6%) was identified as having insufficient knowledge, yet exhibited correct wound care behavior.

Table 4. Relationship between knowledge and perineal wound care behavior

			Wound Care Behavior		Total	P-value
			Correct	Wrong		
Knowledge	Good	n	28	4	32	0.015
		%	71.8	10.3	82.1	
	Enough	n	5	1	6	
		%	12.8	2.6	15.4	
	Not enough	n	1	0	1	
		%	2.6	0.0	2.6	
Total		n	34	5	39	
		%	87.2	12.8	100.0	

This research corroborates the findings of Ref. [14], indicating a significant association between the knowledge and behavior of postpartum mothers in managing perineal wounds. The reported p-value of 0.001 and correlation coefficient of 0.774 underscore a robust and statistically significant relationship between knowledge acquisition and behavioral responses in treating perineal wounds among postpartum mothers within the Sukamulya and Kaduged Health Center UPTD Work Areas. This suggests that a substantial proportion of postpartum mothers exhibit consistent behaviors aligned with their level of knowledge, underscoring the importance of targeted educational interventions to enhance wound care practices in this demographic. This suggests that a significant portion of postpartum mothers demonstrate consistent behaviors that are in line with their level of knowledge, highlighting the importance of targeted educational interventions aimed at improving wound care practices within this demographic. This notion finds support in the study by Ref. [15], which investigated the impact of educational videos on newborn care and its effects on the knowledge of pregnant and postpartum women and their families.

Conclusion

The investigation into the level of knowledge regarding perineal wound care behavior at TPMB Kuswatiningsih has yielded significant insights. With data collected from postpartum mothers, it is evident that the majority, comprising 32 individuals (82.1%), possess a commendable level of knowledge in this domain. This indicates a favorable disposition toward understanding the principles

and practices associated with perineal wound care among the study population. Furthermore, an examination of perineal wound care behavior among postpartum mothers at TPMB Kuswatiningsih reveals encouraging findings. A predominant proportion, totaling 35 respondents (89.7%), demonstrated adherence to good care practices. This observation underscores a conscientious approach toward managing perineal wounds, reflecting the importance placed on postpartum care within the study context. Crucially, the analysis also unveils a noteworthy relationship between the knowledge levels of postpartum mothers and their corresponding perineal wound care behavior at TPMB Kuswatiningsih. The statistical analysis yielded a p-value of 0.015, indicative of a significant association between knowledge acquisition and behavioral responses. Moreover, the correlation coefficient of 0.925 further reinforces the robustness of this relationship, affirming a strong positive correlation between knowledge and care behavior. The findings underscore the pivotal role of knowledge in shaping perineal wound care behavior among postpartum mothers at TPMB Kuswatiningsih. The substantial proportion of individuals exhibiting good knowledge aligns with commendable care practices, highlighting the importance of targeted educational initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding and promoting optimal care behaviors in this demographic.

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