



## The Relationship Between Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers About Perineal Wound Treatment With Perineal Wound Healing

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### ABSTRACT

Postpartum infection still plays a role as the leading cause of maternal death, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia, this problem occurs as a result of midwifery services that are still far from perfect. As a result of improper perineal care, the perineum is affected by lochia and moist conditions that will significantly support the proliferation of bacteria that can cause infection in the perineum. Infection not only inhibits the wound healing process but can also cause damage to the supporting cell tissue, increasing the size of the wound itself, both in length and depth of the wound. Perineal wound care aims to prevent infection, increase comfort, and accelerate healing. Those who have episiotomy or laceration wounds need to have sufficient knowledge about perineal wound care because these factors significantly affect the healing process of the perineal wound. The knowledge of postpartum mothers about poor perineal wound care can be a factor that causes germs and bacteria to appear. This study aimed to determine the relationship between postpartum mothers' knowledge of perineal wound care and perineal wound healing. This research uses a descriptive correlation with a quantitative approach to the point of sampling technique using total sampling with 16 respondents. How to collect data using a questionnaire. Data analysis used the chi-square test to test the relationship between two variables. There is a relationship between postpartum mothers' knowledge about perineal wound care and perineal wound healing, with a significant value of 0.005 ( $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ ). There is a relationship between postpartum mothers' knowledge of perineal wound care and perineal wound healing.

**Keywords:** knowledge, postpartum mothers, perineal wound care.

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### INTRODUCTION

The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is an essential indicator in assessing health status (Bukenya & Golooba-Mutebi, 2020). Maternal Mortality can be used in monitoring deaths related to pregnancy (Evans, 2013). This indicator is influenced by general health status, education, and services during pregnancy and childbirth. MMR's sensitivity to improving health services makes it an indicator of the success of health sector development. Cases of maternal death include deaths of pregnant women, childbirth, and postpartum women (Suryati et al., 2013)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the world in 2020 was 303,000 people. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in ASEAN is 235 per 100,000 live births (ASEAN Secretariat, 2020). Based on data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health (2020), the total maternal mortality rate (MMR) in Indonesia has reached 4,627 people. This figure increased by 8.92 % compared to the previous year, which was 4,197 people. Causes of maternal death last year were caused by bleeding (28.29 %), hypertension (23%), infection (3%), and disorders of the circulatory system (4.94%).

According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health (2020), the number of maternal deaths in West Java was recorded as the first position for the Province with the highest Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Indonesia, which reached 745 people (Setiati & Oktaviani, 2020). According to the Cirebon District Health Office (2020), the number of cases of maternal death is 40 cases. This number has increased compared to 2019, namely 34 cases (Nuroctavia et al., 2021).

According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health (2020), the most common causes of maternal death in Indonesia in 2020 are bleeding, hypertension in pregnancy, infections, metabolic disorders, and others (Nurfatimah et al., 2020). Meanwhile, according to the Indonesian Health Profile (2020), around 25-50% of maternal deaths are caused by problems related to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum (Pranowo, 2020). In addition to obstetric causes, maternal deaths are also caused by other causes (non-obstetric), 32%. Postpartum infections still play a role as the leading cause of maternal death, especially in developing countries like Indonesia; this problem occurs due to midwifery services which are still far from perfect (Ratih, 2020). Other contributing factors to puerperal infection include a poor immune system, poor postnatal care, malnutrition/malnutrition, anemia, poor hygiene, and fatigue (Arami, 2020).

## METHOD

The research design used descriptive-analytic research to explain the relationship between the dependent and independent variables through hypothesis testing. The method used was a survey, and the approach used was a cross-sectional approach; the independent variable in this study was knowledge of postpartum mothers, while the dependent variable was about perineal care with perineal wound healing.

The population in this study were all postpartum mothers (0-40 days) who experienced perineal injuries in the Polindes area of Kudu Keras Village as many as 16 people. The number of samples is 16 people. The sampling technique for this study was the entire population (*total population*). The instruments used in this study were questionnaires, observation sheets, and data collection methods by interviewing respondents to find out information about behavior, characteristics, beliefs, and attitudes. Observation sheets function to observe and collect data through field observations. Data analysis used univariate analysis to describe each variable using a frequency distribution and bivariate analysis to determine the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The statistical test used is chi-square.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. RESULTS

#### a. Knowledge Level Of Postpartum Mothers Regarding Perineal Wound Care At The Kudukeras Policies

**Table 1 . Frequency Distribution of Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers about Perineal Wound Care at Polindes in Kudu Keras Village**

Knowledge level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Well	3	18,8
Enough	6	37,5
Not enough	7	43,8
Total	16	100

Table 1 shows that respondents who have a good level of knowledge are three people (18.8%), who have sufficient knowledge are six people (37.5%), and those who have less are seven people (43.8%)

**b. Perineal Wound Healing Overview**

**Table 2. Distribution Of Perineal Wound Healing for Postpartum Mothers at The Polindes of Kudu Keras Village**

Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Fast	7	43,8
Long	9	56,2
Total	16	100

Table 2 shows that of the 16 respondents, it was found that seven respondents experienced fast wound healing (43.8%), and nine respondents experienced long wound healing (56.2%).

**c. Relationship between Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers About Perineal Wound Care and Perineal Wound Healing**

**Table 3 results of Chi-Square Relationship between Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers and Perineal Wound Healing at Polindes in Kudu Keras Village**

Knowledge Level	Drug Management				Total		P-value
	Fast		Long		N	%	
	F	%	F	%			
Well	3	18,8	0	0	3	18,8	0.005
Enough	4	25,0	12	12,5	6	37,5	
Not enough	0	0	17	43,8	7	43,8	
Total	7	43,8	9	56,3	16	100	

Table 3 results of data analysis obtained p value = 0.005 in this result  $p < 0.05$  maka it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers regarding perineal wound care and perineal wound healing. From the analysis results, it was found that postpartum mothers with less knowledge about perineal wound care could experience longer wound healing than postpartum mothers with good knowledge about perineal wound care. From the data obtained  $X^2$  count = 10.582 and  $X^2$  table = 1 because  $X^2$  count >  $X^2$  table = 10.582 > 1,  $H_0$  is rejected, and  $H_a$  is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers about perineal wound care and perineal wound healing.

**B. DISCUSSION**

**a. Description Of Postpartum Mother's Knowledge About Perineal Wound Care**

Based on the results of the research on the knowledge of postpartum mothers regarding perineal wound care on perineal wound healing at the Kudukeras Polindes, it showed that the knowledge of postpartum mothers from 16 respondents, the majority (43.7%) of postpartum mothers had less knowledge of 7 people while a minority (18.8%) of postpartum mothers who have good knowledge as many as three people.

Knowledge results from "knowing," which occurs after people sense a certain object. Sensing occurs through the five human senses, namely the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Most knowledge is obtained through the eyes and ears (Soekidjo, 2010). The knowledge level is influenced by age, education, work, experience, and information factors (Pueyo-Garrigues et al., 2022). Increasing age causes changes in the physical and psychological (mental) aspects, accompanied by higher education which will affect the acceptance of new information (Ekasari et al., 2019).

It can be seen that the higher a person's education the easier it is to receive information, so the more knowledge one has and vice versa if less education will hinder the development of one's attitude towards the new values introduced (Hartini & Subiyatun, 2014). A high level of education will make it easier for someone to receive information to have more knowledge, especially regarding perineal wound care (Primadona & Susilowati, 2015). This is also in line with research conducted by (Allsop et al., 2022) that postpartum mothers with high knowledge will gain a lot of knowledge, experience, and information about perineal wound care so that they experience normal wound healing.

#### **b. Perineal Wound Healing Overview**

The research results obtained from 16 respondents; it was found that seven respondents (43.8%) experienced fast wound healing. As many as nine other respondents (56.2%) experienced long wound healing.

Thus, those who have good knowledge will treat perineal wounds properly and correctly. If perineal wound care is not done properly, the perineal wound will take a long time to heal and can cause infection (Nurrahmaton & Sartika, 2018). The heavy and excessive activity also interferes with wound healing because it can inhibit the sealing of the wound's edges. From the results of this analysis, it can be illustrated that the level of knowledge of postpartum mothers about perineal wound care that is poor has a tendency not to heal completely, while the better the level of knowledge of postpartum mothers about perineal wound care, the faster the perineal wound healing process. This is due to the mother's exemplary level of knowledge (Isley & Katz, 2017). Of course, she already knows how to treat perineal wounds so that they heal quickly.

Meanwhile, mothers with a poor level of knowledge, of course, do not know how to care for perineal wounds properly. A lack of knowledge about how to care for perineal wounds will result in infection, complications, and complications for postpartum mothers. This follows Indah's research (2018) that improper perineal care causes infection and slows healing (Kurniasari et al., 2018).

#### **c. Relationship Between Knowledge of Postpartum Women About Perineal Wound Care and Perineal Wound Healing**

Sixteen respondents found a relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers and the healing of perineal wounds at the Polindes of Kudukeras Village, indicating that out of 3 respondents (18.8 %), all respondents had good knowledge and experienced fast wound healing. Enough knowledge of 6 respondents were four people (25.0%) with fast-healing perineal wounds and 2 other people (12.5%) with long perineal wound healing, which is more than 7 days. Meanwhile, seven people (43.7%) lacked knowledge, and all respondents experienced long healing of perineal wounds.

The results of data analysis obtained  $p = 0.005$  in the sense that these results indicate that  $p = 0.005 < 0.05$ , so it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers about perineal wound care and perineal wound healing.

The analysis's results using chi-square found a relationship between the level of knowledge of postpartum mothers and the care of perineal wounds. The high knowledge possessed by respondents would support them in treating perineal wounds properly. The research showed that respondents with good knowledge did not treat perineal wounds. This is possible due to various factors influencing knowledge, one of which is information or health facilities far away. Information will influence someone even though that person has a low level of education. However, if that person gets good information from various media, then this can increase that person's knowledge.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion regarding "The Relationship between Knowledge of Postpartum Mothers and Healing of Perineal Wounds at the Polindes of Kudukeras Village, Cirebon Regency. Then the following conclusions can be drawn: Knowledge of postpartum mothers about healing perineal wounds at the Polindes of Kudukeras Village, Cirebon Regency, with good knowledge of 3 people (18.8 %), enough knowledge of 6 people (37.5%), and less knowledge of 7 people (43.8%). Healing of perineal wounds at the Polindes of Kudukeras Village, Cirebon Regency, experienced fast wound healing in 7 people (43.8 %) and slow wound healing in 9 people (56.3%). There is a significant relationship between the knowledge of postpartum mothers regarding perineal wound care and perineal wound healing at the Polindes of Kudukeras Village with the result  $p = 0.005 < 0.05$ .

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