IMPACT OF LABOR EPIDURAL ANALGESIA ON MATERNAL SATISFACTION AND CHILDBIRTH EXPECTATION:

Experience at a tertiary care center – Preliminary results of a prospective observational study

J. GALACHO¹, S. Fernandes¹, F. Lança¹, L. Ormonde¹

¹Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte, EPE - Lisboa (Portugal)

Background:

Maternal satisfaction with labor analgesia is a complex and multifactorial concept that varies according to educational level, profession, labor length, previous experiences, expectations, doubts and myths.

Healthcare centralization in pregnant women forces the personnel to focus on satisfaction.

We assessed the sociodemographic characteristics of our mother-to-be population and the impact of labor epidural analgesia (LEA) on satisfaction and expectations.

Methods:

An anonymous questionnaire was randomly applied to 150 women who gave birth in our center, from August to December 2017, to obtain information about satisfaction with LEA and anesthesiologists' medical care.

Microsoft Excel v15.33 was used for statistics.

Results:

There are about 200 deliveries per month in our hospital. 113 complete questionnaires were returned: mean age was 31,06±6,57 years (range 17-47); 83% were Portuguese nationals; 53,1% had a college degree, 26,5% had the 9th degree or less; 68% were employed; 51,3% were primiparas. Only 15% had a previous anesthesiology appointment, however, all of them felt clarified about labor analgesia and the role of the anesthesiologist during childbirth.

Conclusions:

The overall satisfaction level with childbirth and LEA is very high in our center. Most women choose LEA. Sociodemographic factors do not seem to affect these results.

We consider worrisome the fact that only a small percentage of women are referenced to an anesthesiology appointment before labor and there seems to exist a false perception of literacy surrounding LEA, which compels us to a new observational study.

86.7%

OVERALL SATISFACTION:
good or excellent

92.9%

Of cases performed with LEA

99%

Considered IMPORTANT the
MONITORING by the
ANESTHESIOLOGIST

86.7%

LEA SATISFACTION:
good or excellent

91.3%

Felt ACCOMPANIED
by the ANESTHESIOLOGIST

97.1%

Would RECOMMEND LEA
to family or friends

References:

1. Revista de Calidad Asistencial 2017; 32:166-171
2. Revista de Calidad Asistencial 2011; 26:251-5
3. Revista Española de Anestesiología y Reanimación 2008; 55:160-4