

Abstract

Women's Experiences of Termination of Pregnancy for Fetal Anomaly: A Qualitative Systematic Review

Background: Termination of pregnancy for fetal malformation has enabled couples to avoid the birth of an unhealthy fetus. However, it could be considered as a traumatic life event with high psychological impact. The existing findings from qualitative studies are presented in different points of view depending on the socio-cultural context of each study. Therefore, women's experiences and needs towards termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly in a wide range of regions and socio-cultural context is required in order to gain comprehensive understanding and make recommendations as a basis for evidence-based practice which meet the needs of women.

Objectives

This systematic review aims to identify and synthesize the best available evidence on the meaningfulness of women's experiences of termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly.

Methods

The review considers the qualitative studies drawing on women's experiences of termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly including, but not limited to phenomenology, grounded theory, and ethnography. Comprehensive search strategies were developed to find both published and unpublished studies in English and Thai languages from their inception up until 2016 including EBSCOHost, CINAHL, Science Direct, Scopus, ProQuest, PsycINFO, PubMed, Web of Science, www.thairesearch.in.th and tdc.thailis.or.th/tdc (database for Thai study). Papers selected for retrieval will be assessed by two independent reviewers using standardized a critical appraisal instrument from the Joanna Briggs Institute Qualitative Assessment and Review Instrument (JBI-QARI). Data are extracted from included papers using the standardized data extraction tool from the JBI-QARI and will be analyzed with meta-aggregation of JBI.

Results

This is the on-going project. However the result will apply meta-synthesis to produce a single comprehensive set of synthesized findings that can be used as a basis for evidence-based practice including, but not limited to emotional response, adaptation process, and needs of those women with regard to termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly.