

Fear of Childbirth According to Parity

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Abstract : Objectives: To examine fear of childbirth according to parity, gestational age, prenatal education, and obstetric history. Methods: The study was performed as a questionnaire design in a State Hospital in Kars, Turkey with 403 unselected pregnant who were recruited from the delivery unit. The data were collected via 3 questionnaires; the first with sociodemographic and obstetric features, the second with Wijma Delivery Expectance/Experience Questionnaire (W-DEQ) scale, and the third with the scale of Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI). Results: The W-DEQ and BAI scores were higher in nulliparous than multiparous woman (W-DEQ 67.08 ± 28.33 , 59.87 ± 26.91 , $P=0.039 < 0.05$, BAI 18.97 ± 9.5 , 16.65 ± 11.83 , $P=0.0009 < 0.05$ respectively). Moreover, W-DEQ and BAI scores of pregnant whose gestational week was ≤ 37 / ≥ 41 and who didn't receive training and had vaginal delivery was higher than those whose gestational week was 38-40 weeks and who received prenatal training and had cesarean delivery (W-DEQ 67.54 ± 29.20 , 56.44 ± 22.59 , 69.72 ± 25.53 $p < 0.05$, BAI 21.41 ± 9.07 ; 15.77 ± 11.20 , 18.36 ± 10.57 $p < 0.05$ respectively). Both in nulliparous and multiparous, as W-DEQ score increases BAI score increases too ($r=0.256$; $p=0.000 < 0.05$). Conclusions: Severe fear of childbirth and anxiety was more common in nulliparous women, preterm and post-term pregnancy and who did not receive prenatal training and had vaginal delivery.

Keywords : Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), fear of birth, parity, pregnant women, Wijma Delivery Expectance/Experience Questionnaire (W-DEQ)

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