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Presenter: Tsorng-Yeh Lee, RN, Ph.D.

THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN WHO UNDERWENT INTRAUTERINE FETAL DEATH (IUFD) IN TAIWAN

- ◎ **Tsornng-Yeh Lee**, PhD, RN, Associate professor, School of Nursing, York University
- ◎ **Ying-Chun Liu**, MSN, RN, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Nursing, National Yang-Ming University
- ◎ **Shih-Ching Chao**, MSN, RN, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Nursing, National Yang-Ming University

BACKGROUND

- ◎ **The care of women who had experienced IUFD is insufficient in Taiwan. The post-mortem management by most medical practitioners and family members is rather imprudent.**

BACKGROUND

- ◎ **Only a few people concerned about the fetus' human rights and the couples' feelings. Some couples in grieving of their lost child were even too sorrowful to see the remains of their baby or to keep any souvenir while felt regretted from time to time ever after.**

PURPOSE:

- ◎ **To explore the lived experience of women who undergo IUFD**
- ◎ **To establish a bereavement service in a hospital.**

The Bereavement Services:

The idea:

- ◉ **To encourage couples to see and hold the baby**
- ◉ **To dress it as though it were a live child**
- ◉ **To hold a funeral**
- ◉ **To keep mementoes**

THE ACTIONS:

1. Antenatal:

- ⊙ **After couples were told their fetus' death and explained the possible cause of death by the doctor, the researchers of this research took over to care the couples. The brochure of the Bereavement Services were given to the couples and following management were arranged.**

THE ACTIONS:

2. Intrapartum:

- ◎ **The researcher accompanied with the woman-in-labor in the whole intrapartum period. After the fetus was born, the researcher dressed the fetus and put a cap on the head, then put the fetus in the memory box. The footprint were taken on the memory card, and on the gypsum model. Time was offered for the couples to look at the fetus and stay alone.**

THE ACTIONS:

3. The postpartum:

- ⦿ **Helping couples to name for the child and arranged the proper religious rites.**
- ⦿ **Giving couples the brochure of Bereavement services in order to let couples understand the management principles of fetus after death.**

THE ACTIONS:

3. The postpartum:

- ⦿ **Giving couples the memory box which contains belongings of the fetus; for example: hand-rings , the bereavement card , gypsum made footprint, fetus' hair and photograph of fetus. A postpartum care pamphlet was given to couples and let them know when would be the better time to be pregnant again.**

THE MEMORY CARD



親愛的_____女士 以下是您孩子的基本資料

	腳印
身長: _____	
體重: _____	
週數: _____	

The brochure of the Bereavement Services

THE GYPSUM MODEL



THE MEMORY BOX



METHODS:

- ⊙ **Seventeen participants were recruited through purposive sampling.**
- ⊙ **The inclusion criteria were women who were:**
 - ⊙ **1) more than 20 years old,**
 - ⊙ **2) > 20 weeks gestational age,**
 - ⊙ **3) married,**
 - ⊙ **4) induced labor for IUFD.**

METHODS:

- ◎ **The data were collected during one-hour in-depth interviews, 2-4 weeks after delivery.**
- ◎ **Colaizzi's phenomenological methodology was used to analyse the data.**

RESULTS:

- ◉ **Eight** themes were extracted from the interviewed data, they were:
- ◉ **(1) the emotional fluctuation after loss of the fetus**
- ◉ **(2) the reason for seeing or not seeing the body of the fetus;**
- ◉ **(3) unforgotten experience of induction of labor;**
- ◉ **(4) the appropriate management of the body of the fetus;**

RESULTS:

- ⊙ **Eight themes were extracted from the interviewed data, they were:**
- ⊙ **(5) the meaning of the memorial;**
- ⊙ **(6) more considerate for others after crying;**
- ⊙ **(7) the change of emotion; and**
- ⊙ **(8) the hope for following pregnancies.**

IMPLICATION:

- ◎ **The result of the study can facilitate the medical and nursing practitioners a better understanding of the psychological feeling of women who undergo IUFD. Considerate and caring policies, including bereavement services, should be developed in all hospitals in Taiwan to help women to cope perinatal loss.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

◉ **Comments & Questions**