Overview of FGC

What is FGC?
The World Health Organization (WHO) defines FGC as “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to female organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons” (WHO, 2014).

Terminology
There are various terms describing the practice of FGC that have evolved over years to recount the practice of female genital cutting (FGC).

• Female Circumcision: It was introduced in the 1970s. The term has been criticized because it is perceived as parallel to male circumcision.

• Female Genital Mutilation: It was used in early 1980s to mid 1990s to distinguish the practice from male circumcision. The term “mutilation” emphasizes the level of violation and the degree of complications that are associated with the practice.

• Female Genital Cutting: The United State Agency for International Development (USAID) introduced it in late 1990s as official term.

FGC in the American Context
• It is a public health and human rights issue because it affects at least 200 million women worldwide.
• Increasing migration to the USA and elsewhere precedes the care of women with FGC to become a global human rights issue.
• In the U.S. more than 507,000 females who underwent or at risk to undergo FGC migrated to USA.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose is to integrate culturally and clinically competent perinatal care for vulnerable women and their families within the American healthcare context.

Theoretical Framework
The Transcultural Skills Development Model (TCSDM) is the major theoretical framework for this study. Papadopoulos, Tilki and Taylor developed this model in 1998 to help healthcare providers deliver culturally competent care, which ultimately ensures high quality care for all.

The Current Challenges
Providing culturally competent care for pregnant women with FGC, particularly during labor, is a key challenge for U.S. healthcare providers.

- Lack of understanding of the cultural and social aspects of FGC
- Lack of knowledge and management of FGC
- Lack of trust related to health care providers
- Lack of providing effective therapeutic communications

FGC & Perinatal Care in USA Context
A scoping review was conducted to examine the existing evidence that concern FGC and perinatal care in the American context. Indeed, it identified the knowledge gap that concerns FGC and maternity healthcare services. It provided deeper insight about the maternal experiences of immigrant women with FGC, and the healthcare providers as well in USA.