



ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at <http://www.recentscientific.com>

CODEN: IJRSFP (USA)

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 9, Issue, 7(C), pp. 27849-27852, July, 2018

**International Journal of
Recent Scientific
Research**

DOI: 10.24327/IJRSR

Research Article

DRIVERS OF C-SECTION BIRTH IN XUZHOU, CHINA

Li Wang^{1†}, Feng Liu^{1†}, Xiaokun Xia¹, Shuqin Li¹, Lian Zhu¹, Jawad Sajid M^{2*}

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Xuzhou Central Hospital,
Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, 221009, China

²School of Management, China University of Mining and Technology, Xuzhou,
Jiangsu province, 221116, China

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2018.0907.2345>

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 12th April, 2018
Received in revised form 23rd
May, 2018
Accepted 7th June, 2018
Published online 28th July, 2018

Key Words:

Childbirth, Women, Pregnancy,
C-section, Natural birth

ABSTRACT

Child birth is a matter of life and death. Operational procedure either natural or C-section is directly related to it. China has one of the highest rate of C-section birth in the world. With most if not all, related to non-medical reasons. In this study we have identified the main drivers for non-medical related C-section birth in Xuzhou, China. The research was conducted in two phases. In first phase the magnitude of C-section preference amongst recent mothers and pregnant women was calculated. Furthermore women who preferred natural birth the impact of China two child policy on their choice was determined. Out of total 326, 43% preferred natural birth. While 64% of those who preferred natural birth were influenced by China's two child policy. Remaining 57% preferred C-section birth due to various reasons, quite surprisingly the highest 29% would go or have gone for C-section because everybody is doing C-section around them, followed by sexual reasons 18%, superstition 12% and because of guidance/influence of midwives and gynecologists 11%. Although China's two child policy have helped in reducing high preference of C-section, but it's not enough at least for Xuzhou. Central and Xuzhou local government should take more necessary measures.

Copyright © Li Wang *et al* 2018, this is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

There are two main ways for a newborn to open his eyes in to the world: it would be either through natural birth or by C-section surgical operation, both methods are adopted to make delivery of the newborn healthy and safe (Nierenberg, 2018). Concerns are arising over the increased rate of C-section birth rate in many countries, this increased rate is not only limited to west but also in countries like China and Brazil more than 50% deliveries are taking place through C-section (Wilson, 2014).

China is amongst those countries where C-section rate is alarmingly high. As per studies conducted in Chinese hospitals in 2007 and 08 roundabout 46% of newborns were delivered via C-section operational procedures which is the highest ever in the world (Hvistendahl, 2012). China's rate of childbirth via C-section have drastically increased over the years, from 0.9 percent in 1970 (Guo, *et al.*, 2005) to 36 percent in 2011 (Qian, 2012). China's current two child policy had a negative impact on this huge preference of childbirth via C-section (Hornby, 2016).

This high rate of C-section associated childbirth in China is quite alarming. Owing to the fact there are quite a number of complications associated with C-section childbirth. It has adverse effects to the health of the child and the mother. For child may suffer breathing issues at the time of birth and later on may suffer from asthma (Nierenberg, 2018). Newborn baby might also have to be admitted to ICU due to adverse effects of C-section birth, mothers may be exposed to the risk of heart attack, removal of womb due to excessive blood loss, longer stay duration in hospital (Curtis, 2016).

Different aspects and dimensions related to childbirth via C-section in China have been studied over the years. Recent studies on the problem of Chinese C-section childbirth include: impact of two child policy on childbirth via C-section (Wang & Hesketh, 2017); determinants of elective C-section childbirth (Pang, *et al.*, 2007); hospital facility (Wang, *et al.*, 2017); Health care services (Sufang, *et al.*, 2007); Preferences for natural vs C-section childbirth (Zhang, *et al.*, 2017); Health staff preferences (Deng, *et al.*, 2014); Spatial and temporal (Li, *et al.*, 2017), Influencing factors (Shi, *et al.*, 2016; Ji, *et al.*, 2015); longitudinal studies of factors (Zhang, *et al.*, 2018);

*Corresponding author: Jawad Sajid M

School of Management, China University of Mining and Technology, Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, 221116, China

Pang, *et al.*, 2007) and review (Feng, *et al.*, 2014). All these studies focus on different aspects for C-section childbirth.

Despite of the enormous work on the topic of C-section preferences and its different dimensions. There is no such study which solely focuses on different factors associated with the C-section procedure preference over natural birth for women of Xuzhou China. This study fills this gap by analyzing childbirth procedural preferences of women who have given birth during recent years and pregnant women in Xuzhou. The study is based on two phase approach in first phase information about general preferences and the influence of two child policy is measured. In second phase empirical analysis of different factors of C-section preference have been presented.

The rest of the paper is divided as follows section 2 contains the details about the participants and questioner with 2.1 about questioner and 2.2 about participants. In section 3 we have discussed the results including results from phase 1 in section 3.1 and of phase 2 in section 3.2. In section 4 we have concluded our work and gave recommendations.

Questioner and participants

Questioner

Extensive literature review, inspection of social media sources was conducted to come up with the initial theme of the questioner. This questioner was than presented to three groups of pregnant women from Xuzhou. The group consisted of 10 members each. With most of them between 20-30 years of age of course all married. With most if not all were of professional meaning working women background. As per focus group suggestions the following questioner was finalized.

Phase 1

To develop basic understanding of the topic under discussion the following main questions will be asked in phase 1.

1. Will you prefer natural or C-section birth?
2. If you prefer natural birth does it is influenced by China's recent two child policy?

Phase 2

In phase two questioner will be provided to only those respondents who have preferred C-section birth over natural. This part is carefully developed in consultation with the members of focus group. In this section the reasons for preference of C-section childbirth will be asked. The following contains the details about the questions.

1. Obeying social norms (because everybody in China go for C-Section birth so do I)
2. Because it is a show of high status (more money spent on C-section as compared to natural birth)
3. Because of reasons relating to sex life (pregnant women's own perception)
4. Because of superstitions and comfort of time selection (lucky day, time etc.)
5. Because of Husband & family pressure
6. Because of the fear of pain with natural birth
7. Previous negative experiences
8. Safety perceptions
9. Because of guidance/influence of midwives and gynecologists.

10. Because of print, electronic and social media
11. Any other miscellaneous reasons

Participants

Questioner was provided to a total number of 350 women across different hospitals maternity homes, and homes in Xuzhou, China. All of whom either have given birth previously in recent years or were pregnant at that time. Out of these 326 responses were deemed satisfactory. With almost 18% (59) house wives remaining 82% (267) were working women. All were educated with at least secondary school certificate. With most of the participants between 21-30 years of age. With an average age of 26.

RESULTS

Phase 1

When asked for the answer of the first question of phase 1 i.e. Will you prefer natural or C-section birth? Almost 43% (140) of the respondents replied they preferred natural birth to C-section childbirth procedure. Out of these 43% when asked for the question, if you prefer natural birth does it is influenced by China's recent two child policy? A total of 64% (90) respondents replied owing to the China two child policy they are planning to or they have given birth to a second child. It was a general believe amongst respondents that a natural birth will help or have helped them to give birth to a second child. Remaining 36% (50) participants replied irrespective of the childbirth policy of Chinese government they always have preferred or will prefer natural birth over C-section birth. Figure 1. Contains the details of the results from section 1.

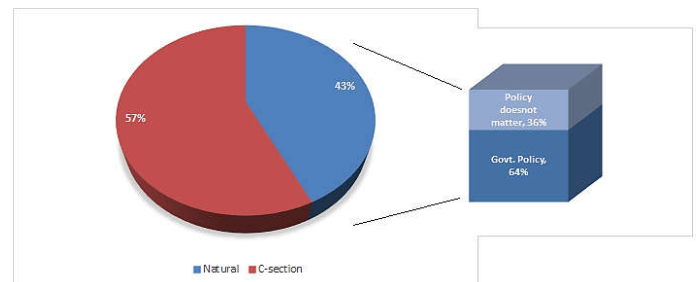


Figure 1 Phase one results summary

Phase 2

Remaining 57% (186) respondents were provided with the second part of the questioner. Which is the core of our research problem i.e. what are the determinants for preference of C-section over natural birth. It should be kept in mind that it doesn't include those who have medical compulsion for C-section procedures. Which means it's either mother preference or it's being influenced or in rare cases forced by husband or family members. Out of remaining 29% (54) responded, because of obeying social norms (because everybody in China go for C-Section birth so do I). 4% (7) responded they have or will prefer C-section because it reflects their high status. 18%(33) replied because of sex life they have or will prefer C-section procedure. 12 % (22) because of superstition or comfort of date selection. Because of Husband & family pressure 8% (15) women have or will have to go for C-section birth over natural birth. 6 % (11) women answered that because of the fear of pain with natural birth they have or will go for C-section. 2% (4) think because of previous negative experiences

they will not go for natural birth of course all of these women already have given birth at its their second time around. 5% (9) because of safety perceptions. 11% (20) because of guidance/influence of midwives and gynecologists. 2% (4) because of print, electronic and social media and 3% (6) because of any other miscellaneous reasons. Table 1. Contains the results of second phase of our research.

Table 1 Phase two results

Item No.	Reasons of preference	Absolute number	Percentage
1	Obeying social norms (because everybody in China go for C-Section birth so do I)	54	29%
2	Because it is a show of high status (more money spent on C-section as compared to natural birth)	7	4%
3	Because of reasons relating to sex life (women's own perception)	33	18%
4	Because of superstitions and comfort of time selection (lucky day, time etc.)	22	12%
5	Because of Husband & family pressure	15	8%
6	Because of the fear of pain with natural birth	11	6%
7	Previous negative experiences	4	2%
8	Safety perceptions	9	5%
9	Because of guidance/influence of midwives and gynecologists.	20	11%
10	Because of print, electronic and social media	4	2%
11	Any other miscellaneous reasons	6	3%
Total		186	100%

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

China is a country with one of the highest rate of C-section birth for non-medical reasons in the world. Many socio-economic drivers contribute to this alarmingly high rate of C-section preference over natural birth. Although much literature can be found on the driving factors related to this high rate of birth through C-section operational procedure in China. But none of them specifically focuses on the magnitude and driving factors amongst women of Xuzhou China. Which is of importance because different geographical locations and regions can yield different perceptions and results.

A relatively high percentage of 57% of pregnant women and women who already have given birth would or have preferred C-section over natural birth. Remaining 43% would of course prefer natural birth. With China two child policy having an impact on their choice of natural birth. 64% of the women who have or will prefer natural childbirth are influenced by China second child policy. This also backs the results obtained from researches for different cities and regions of China whereby also two child policy have pursued women to go for natural birth. Remaining 36% said no matter what would be the policy of Chinese government they will go for natural birth.

Out of the 57% (186) women who have preferred C-section birth, 29% (54) responded because of obeying social norms (because everybody in China go for C-Section birth so do I). Which is quite strange, women instead of copying others should choose what is best for their own and newborn health. 4% (7) responded they have or will prefer C-section because it reflects their high status. 18% (33) replied because of sex life they have or will prefer C-section procedure. 12 % (22) because of superstition or comfort of date selection. Because of Husband & family pressure 8% (15) women have or will have to go for C-section birth over natural birth. Chinese government should take necessary steps to reduce this practice and women should be given more authority over her own

decisions. 6 % (11) women answered that because of the fear of pain with natural birth they have or will go for C-section. 2% (4) think because of previous negative experiences they will not go for natural birth of course all of these women already have given birth at its their second time around. 5% (9) because of safety perceptions. 11% (20) because of guidance/influence of midwives and gynecologists. 2% (4) because of print, electronic and social media and 3% (6) because of any other miscellaneous reasons.

Recommendations

Finally from the results it is quite evident that despite of the two child policy C-section preference for non-medical reasons is quite high amongst female population of Xuzhou. In this regard it's not only the duty of central government in Beijing but also the responsibility of Xuzhou city government to devise policies to reduce this unhealthy trend of C-section birth for that it may consider the following suggestions.

Local radio and TV stations of Xuzhou could be utilized as a tool to educate women and their families about the adverse effects of the non-medical reasons C-section birth. Plus these sources can be utilized to promote health side benefits of natural birth.

Famous local social media platforms can also be utilized by local government to educate younger mothers.

Special classes should be conducted across schools and colleges of Xuzhou to educate would be mothers and fathers.

Obstetrics and gynecologist staff including doctors and midwives should be taught about the benefits of natural birth because in some cases they influence the decisions of the mothers.

Finally mothers should be given more authority and power to decide between the choices available for childbirth operational procedures. For that Xuzhou government should make special amendments in current rules.

References

- Curtis, P., 2016. Caesarean or natural birth – which is safer?. [Online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/reality-check-with-polly-curtis/2011/nov/23/health> [Accessed 12 March 2018].
- Deng, W. *et al.*, 2014. Cesarean section in Shanghai: women's or healthcare provider's preferences?. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, Volume 14, pp. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2393-14-285>.
- Feng, X. L., Wang, Y., An, . L. & Ronsmans, . C., 2014. Cesarean section in the People's Republic of China: current perspectives. *International Journal of Womens Health*, Volume 6, p. 59–74.
- Guo, S., Zhao , F., Wu , K. & *et al.*, 2005. Trends of caesarean section and related social and demographic factors in China from 1971 to 2003.. *Chin J Perinatal Med*, Volume 8, pp. 145-149.
- Hornby, L., 2016. Second time around, Chinese mothers turn away from C-sections. [Online] Available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/487ca408-7b3a-11e6-ae24-f193b105145e> [Accessed 1 May 2018].

- Hvistendahl, M., 2012. Cesarean Nation: The cautionary tale of how China came to have the world's highest C-section rate.. [Online]
Available at: http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2012/01/cesarean_nation_why_do_nearly_half_of_chinese_women_deliver_babies_via_c_section_.html?via=gdpr-consent
[Accessed 20 April 2018].
- Ji, H. et al., 2015. Factors contributing to the rapid rise of caesarean section: a prospective study of primiparous Chinese women in Shanghai. *BMJ Open*, pp. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2015-008994.
- Li, H.-T., Luo, S., Trasande, L. & Hellerstein, S., 2017. Geographic Variations and Temporal Trends in Cesarean Delivery Rates in China, 2008-2014. *JAMA*, Volume 317, pp. 69-76.
- Nierenberg, C., 2018. Vaginal Birth vs. C-Section: Pros & Cons. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.livescience.com/45681-vaginal-birth-vs-c-section.html>[Accessed 10 June 2018].
- Pang, M. et al., 2007. A longitudinal observational study of preference for elective caesarean section among nulliparous Hong Kong Chinese women. *BJOG An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, Volume DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2007.01267.x, pp. 623-629.
- Pang, S. M. et al., 2007. Determinants of preference for elective caesarean section in Hong Kong Chinese pregnant women. *Hong Kong Med J*, Volume 13, pp. 100-105.
- Qian, J., 2012. Trends of caesarean section rates in China from 2003 to 2011.. *Population and Development*, Volume 18, p. 39-42.
- Shi, Y. et al., 2016. Influencing factors associated with the mode of birth among childbearing women in Hunan Province: a cross-sectional study in China. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, Volume 16, pp. DOI 10.1186/s12884-016-0897-9.
- Sufang, G. et al., 2007. Delivery settings and caesarean section rates in China. *Bull World Health Organ.*, Volume 85, p. doi: 10.2471/BLT.06.035808.
- Wang, E. & Hesketh, T., 2017. Large reductions in cesarean delivery rates in China: a qualitative study on delivery decision-making in the era of the two-child policy. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*, Volume 17, pp. doi: 10.1186/s12884-017-1597-9.
- Wang, X. et al., 2017. Caesarean deliveries in China. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*, Volume 17, pp. doi: 10.1186/s12884-017-1233-8.
- Wilson, C., 2014. Stop glossing over the risks of natural birth to cut caesareans. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn27929-stop-glossing-over-the-risks-of-natural-birth-to-cut-caesareans/>
[Accessed 3 May 2018].
- Zhang, H. et al., 2017. Predictors of preference for caesarean delivery among pregnant women in Beijing. *Journal of International Medical research*, Volume 45, p. 798-807.
- Zhang, Z. et al., 2018. Factors associated with Chinese nulliparous women's choices of mode of delivery: A longitudinal study. *Midwifery*, Volume 62, p. 42-48.

How to cite this article:

Li Wang et al.2018, Drivers of C-Section Birth In Xuzhou, China. *Int J Recent Sci Res.* 9(7), pp. 27849-27852.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2018.0907.2345>
