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Title: Nursing support during labor: a comparison of the perceptions between Hong Kong Chinese women and Chinese women from mainland China who have short stay in Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

Objectives: To determine which nursing support behaviors during labor the Hong Kong Chinese women and the Chinese women from Mainland China rated as the most helpful. And compare their perceptions for any difference regarding the support behaviors.

Design: A cross-sectional quantitative design was used. The data were collected through the Chinese version of the Bryanton Adaptation of Nursing Support in Labor Questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used to analyze and compare the data.

Participants: 30 Hong Kong Chinese women with Hong Kong Identification cards and 30 Chinese women from Mainland China were recruited. The first time mother, has vaginally delivery of a term and healthy baby within 24-48 hours was approached individually.

Setting: In three postnatal wards of a regional hospital in Hong Kong.

Results: No significant difference was found in the mean score of the three subscales: emotional, informational and tangible supports in both groups. The Hong Kong Chinese rated "kept me informed about my progress" as the most helpful behavior and "accept what I said/did without judging" as the least helpful behavior. The women from Mainland China rated "made me physically comfortable" as the most helpful behavior and "provided for my partner's physical needs" as the least helpful behaviors. Statistically significant differences were found on two behaviors. They were "made me feel cared about as an individual" ($t = -2.21, p < 0.05$), and "made me physically comfortable" ($t = -2.38, p < 0.05$).

Implications for practice: Midwives could empower the women to have a positive experience of childbirth. A sensitive and appropriate care is recommended especially for the patients with different ethnical or social background. Hong Kong Chinese requested to keep them informed of their progress (emotional and informational support). The women from Mainland China requested for physically comfort (tangible support). The midwives should equip themselves to provide care for women of different needs. The women from Mainland China also requested for respect and made them feel cared as an individual. "Touch me" was also perceived as helpful by both groups of women so touch was recommend to allay the anxiety and stress of the laboring women. Midwives should make use of their skills and knowledge to become an ideal support person for the women and her families as the women comment that they welcome the midwives's opinions.