



IS MODE OF DELIVERY ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL RESPONSE?



WE COMPARED GENITAL AND SUBJECTIVE SEXUAL AROUSAL IN WOMEN WHO HAD VAGINAL BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO HAD C-SECTION BIRTHS.



HYPOTHESIS

Considering the physiological process of vaginal birth, we predicted that women who had vaginal births would have lower genital response, but similar subjective arousal levels to women who had unlabored C-section births.

RESEARCH METHODS

We recruited three groups of participants:

- Women who had vaginal births
- Women who had C-section births
- Women who have never given birth



Participants watched an erotic film while their genital and subjective arousal were measured.



Genital arousal was measured by a laser doppler imager, which recorded blood flow.



Subjective sexual arousal, the psychological experience of "feeling turned on" was measured with a rating scale.



RESULTS

Hypothesis supported: Women with vaginal births had lower blood flow than those with C-sections, yet reported similar levels of subjective arousals. Therefore, we suggest that physiological differences may not impact women's subjective experience of postpartum sexual arousal.