

Fear before, during and after amniocentesis

The theme of this paper is “Fear before, during and after amniocentesis”. I have chosen this theme as it is close to me. I studied to be midwife and I underwent amniocentesis myself.

In the theoretical part I have defined the notion fear according to several authors. Then I have tried to describe amniocentesis on the basis of approachable medical publications. I paid the attention to the history, dividing, technique, indication and contraindication of amniocentesis. Another section of the theoretical part is a chapter about amnion, examples of samples examination and examples of congenital developing defects which are found from amnion.

In empiric part of the paper there are the aims to discuss the age level of the women who underwent amniocentesis, find out if they have the basic general knowledge about surgery and where they got the information about it from. I was also interested in reasons for amniocentesis, concrete causes of fear, pregnant women have, which is connected to the surgery as well as patients’ feelings before, during and after amniocentesis. The last raised question was whether they would undergo this surgery again.

According to the research I have found out that the age level of women undergoing the amniocentesis is usually between 26 – 30 years and between 31 – 35 years. Predominant number of examined women was informed about amniocentesis and this information received mainly from their doctors, nurses or midwives. The most common reason for the surgery was the unsatisfactory result of biological screening of congenital developing defects. Fear connected with the surgery was the biggest before they heard the results than they were afraid of damaging the children during the surgery and from the risk of abortion no matter if it was before, during or after the amniocentesis. The most often used formulations were that they had no any feelings, they had heart beating or insomnia. Eighty-three percent of patients would undergo the amniocentesis again if it was necessary.