Babies removed at birth: A midwives tale.

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“Right, where do I start? I might as well start at the beginning”

(Lilly)
What are the experiences of mothers who have their baby removed at birth and what elements of their midwifery care were helpful or unhelpful to them at that time?

What are midwives’ experiences of providing care to women who have had or will be having their babies removed at birth and what do they need in order to provide the best care for this group of women?
Research design

- Qualitative methods using narrative inquiry approach
- Data collection - Face to face interviews and focus groups both incorporating photo-elicitation techniques
- Data analysis – Holistic content analysis
- Ethical considerations
- Ethos of participatory research
Photo-elicitation

• “A simple idea of inserting a photo into a research interview” (Harper, 2002)

• Can be taken by researcher or participant

• Empowers research participants

• Collaborative approach

• Stimulates dormant thoughts and feelings

• Leaders to greater insight into individual experience

• Appropriate for sensitive topics (Rose, 2014)
# Demographics

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>No of experiences</th>
<th>Based</th>
<th>Years of experience</th>
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<td>RM</td>
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<td>RM</td>
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<td>RN, RM</td>
<td>Named Nurse</td>
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<td>Hospital/Community</td>
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Data analysis

- Six focus groups
- Eight face to face interviews
- Observation field notes and reflections
- 40 photographs
- Interpretations and insights of images shared as narratives

“This photo sums it up in a nutshell for me”
Emerging Themes

• Four main themes
  – The handover
  – Providing care in labour and in the postnatal period
  – Baby catcher to baby snatcher
  – Reflections and memories

• Each had five sub themes
The handover

• Don’t judge a book by its cover
• Ignoring the whispers and rumours

"My name is Caroline I am a qualified midwife and have worked solely on labour and postnatal ward for the last eight years......."
Providing care

• Shhh don’t mention it
• The 4th stage of labour
• Keeping secrets

“When I look back I think it was just a bleak situation to be involved in”
Baby catcher to baby snatcher

- Betraying the midwife/mother relationship
- Showing compassion
- Its like a stillbirth
- Watching her leave

“I close my eyes and I can hear that tune they play on the film…. I feel just like him”
Reflections and memories

• Need to talk things through
• I am sure it was the right thing to do
• They know who I am
• Moral distress

“I always wonder what happened to both the woman and the baby, I just need to know if it was the right thing to do”
To conclude

• Experience high levels of moral distress
• Professional grief
• Felt extreme betrayal to women
• Fearful at times
• Acknowledged the experience as one of the most challenging
I am happy to take questions
References


