

Abstract:

This bachelor thesis focuses on the issue of placenta processing after childbirth. The main aim of the thesis is to determine the extent to which healthcare professionals are informed about this issue, whether they inform their clients about the various processing options. The aim of this study was to compare data between a larger university hospital and smaller district hospitals. The thesis consists of two parts – theoretical and practical.

The theoretical part describes the development and morphology of the placenta, its positioning in the uterus, and its pathologies, the third stage of labor, and its irregularities. Subsequent chapters describe lotus birth, rituals involving the placenta practised in various parts of the world, and the mentioned methods of processing the placenta. The conclusion discusses contraindications for placentophagy, the nutritional value of the placenta, and the legal aspects of releasing the placenta from a healthcare facility.

The practical part was conducted through a questionnaire survey. The questionnaire was distributed to midwives, doctors, and other healthcare professionals at the maternity ward of a university hospital and two district hospitals.

Keywords:

Placenta, placental function, third stage of labor, placentophagy, encapsulation, lotus birth, placental rituals