

Understanding Patient Perspective on Pelvic Floor Disorder Surgical Pain and Adverse Events: A Qualitative Study



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BACKGROUND

- **Pain** is one of the **main complaints** and **most feared complication** after pelvic floor surgery in women with pelvic floor disorders (PFDs)¹
- **Pre-existing** pain is a **risk factor** for chronic **post-operative** pain²
- PFD related pain cannot be measured with current patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) since measurement of pain is **complex** and pain is **multifactorial**.³

AIM

To understand perceptions and views of women with PFDs on what is important for them regarding pain, then draft potential items for a new pain-specific PROM using a conceptual framework.

METHODS

- Used a **qualitative phenomenological study design**.
- Recruited **adult women** who had **pelvic floor surgery**, had **pain** and surgical complications, in Australia and New Zealand.
- Conducted **semi-structured** telephone and zoom **interviews**.
- Interview transcripts were **thematically analysed** using **NVivo** software.

RESULTS

- 16 women interviewed (58.1 ± 12.8 years of age)
- All women experienced pain from PFDs and pelvic floor surgery

It feels tight...very much like labour pain (P_006)

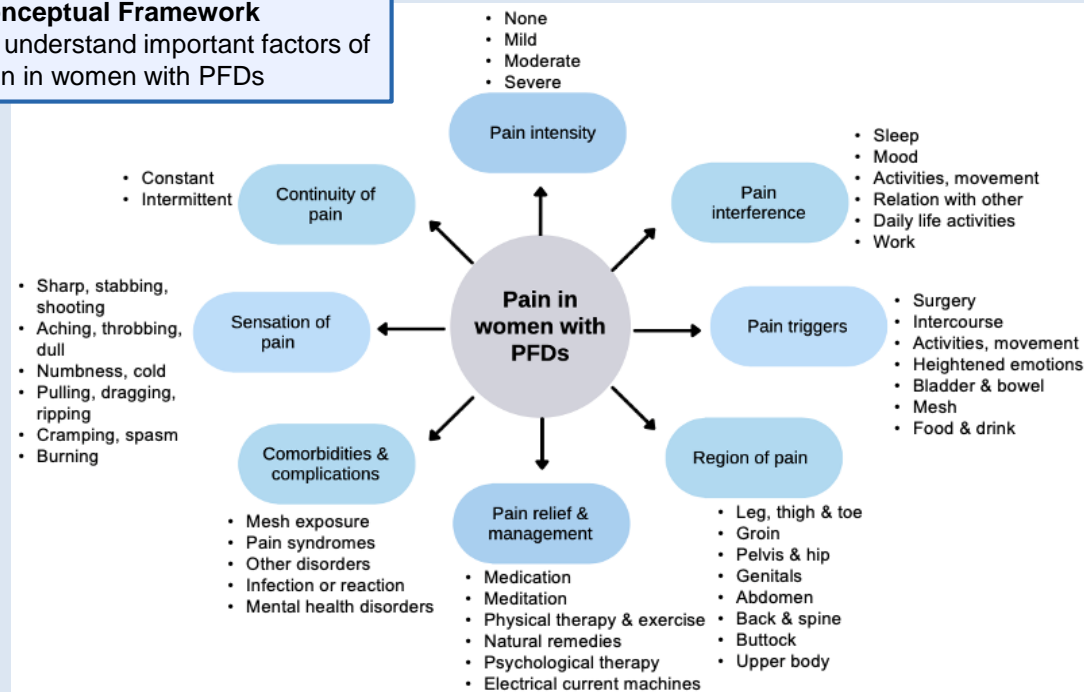
It was like I was being stabbed with shards of glass...every movement was so, so painful (P_007)

I didn't have a social life. I was depressed, crying. I felt really angry (P_010)

Life is not good. I'm very disabled, I can barely move (P_015)

Conceptual Framework

To understand important factors of pain in women with PFDs



CONCLUSION

- Problem of pain in women with PFDs is immense and complicated.
- Women emphasised and supported the need for a new pain-specific PROM.
- The conceptual framework and quotes will help to develop the new instrument.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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