

# Conscientious Objection in Medicine: Psychological consequences in women who face Legal Termination of Pregnancy in the Region of Murcia

## BACKGROUND

- Perinatal loss is a stressful situation in women's life (and their families) (Daugirdaitė, van den Akker & Purewal, 2015) <sup>1</sup>
- Losses due to legal termination by medical criteria carry several traumatic moments

### Aim

To describe women experience and to explore symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in relation to the medical care received during the pregnancy termination

## METHOD

**Instrument:** On-line ad hoc questionnaire + PCL-6 (symptoms of PTSD) (Milles, Marchall & Schell, 2008) <sup>2</sup>

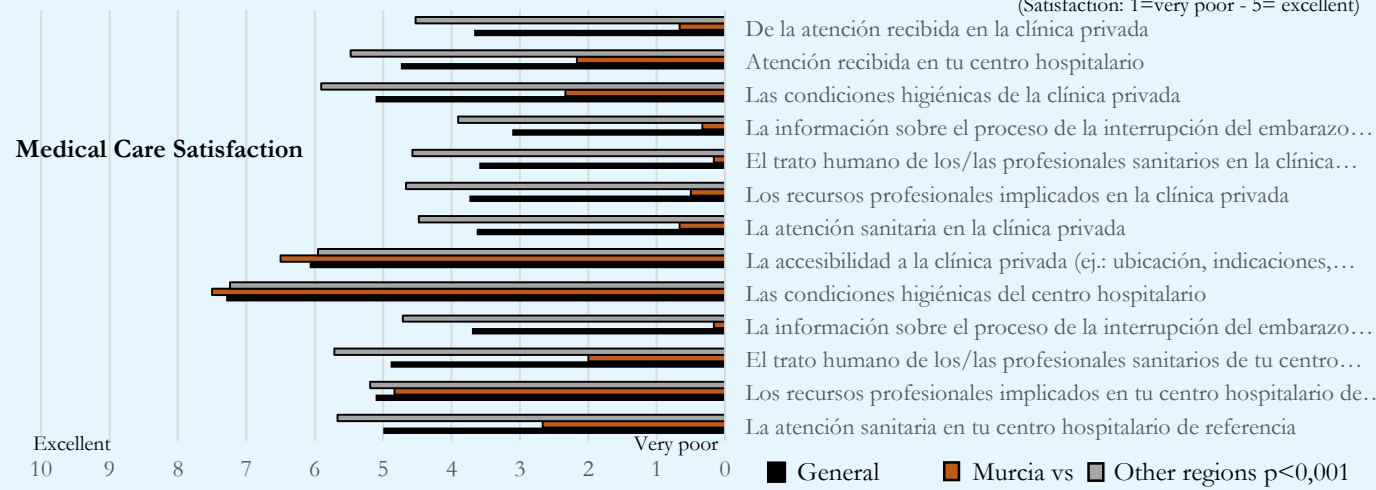
**Data collection:** Between February and August 2019

**Participants:** 27 women. Age average = 33,44 years-old (s. d. = 3,68; range = 28-43). 22,22% Region of Murcia

## RESULTS

- **Weeks pregnancy average**  
17,33 (4,83) weeks + 3,45 days; range= 8-32
- **Decision making date**  
18,41(4,63)weeks+4,63 days; range=13-32
- **Interruption date**  
19,19(4,84) weeks +4,06 days
- **Interruption in Reference Center**  
18,51%. (Murcia=0%)
- **Prejudice by medical staff**  
14,87% (Murcia=33,33%)

Support	Reference Center	Private Clinic
Economical	18,51% Satisfaction=1,59/5 (Murcia = 33,33%;1/5)	0%
Bureaucratic	33,33% Satisfaction = 3,5/5 (Murcia = 0%).	13,79% Satisfaction = 4,2/5
Psychological	18,51% (1 accepted) Satisfaction = 5/5 (Murcia = 0%)	3,44 % Satisfaction = 1/5 (Murcia = 0%).



PCL-6 → 75,86% ≥ 14 positive symptoms

Average: ■ 22,89 ■ 22,42 ■ 23,89

**MCSatisfaction \* PCL-6 correlation:**

r = - 0,63; p < 0,001

## CONCLUSIONS

- Perinatal loss is a bad experience in addition due to the medical care. PTSD symptoms are present and correlates with low Medical Care Satisfaction
- Women from Region of Murcia showed worst Medical Care Satisfaction.
- Psychological professional support is required.
- Medical standards need revision and further research must be conducted.

**References:** <sup>1</sup> "Posttraumatic Stress and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder after Termination of Pregnancy and Reproductive Loss: A Systematic Review. *J. of Pregnancy* http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2015/646345  
<sup>2</sup> PCL-6 based on "Spanish and English versions of the PTSD Checklist-Civilian version (PCL-C): Testing for differential item functioning" *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 21(4) 369-376