

(13) Anxiety can predict pain magnitude followed by termination of first trimester pregnancy

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OBJECTIVE: the purpose of the study was to investigate anxiety and other factors that may predict pain magnitude following termination of the first trimester pregnancy (TOP).

STUDY DESIGN: Forty consecutive women underwent TOP were asked to fill State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI). Pain magnitude was measured using visual analog scale (VAS) 15, 30 and 60 minutes following the procedure. Correlation between state anxiety, trait anxiety, age, parity, numbers of TOP, gestational age and pain's magnitude was measured.

RESULTS: State anxiety was able to predict pain magnitude at VAS15' ($p= 0.023$) and trait anxiety was able to predict pain magnitude at VAS30' ($p= 0.013$). Other variables failed to show significant results.

CONCLUSIONS: Preoperative assessing of anxiety levels may lead to appropriate treatment in order to ensure pain control outcome, comfortable and safe abortion.

Key words: Anxiety, Pain, Termination of pregnancy.

Area of interest: Health.