

INPLASY

Surviving postpartum hemorrhage: a synthesis of qualitative studies

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - NO FUNDING SOURCES.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Preliminary Searches.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 25 April 2026 and was last updated on 25 April 2026.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective How do women describe the experience of surviving postpartum hemorrhage?

To interpret and synthesize the findings of qualitative research on the experiences of women who survived postpartum hemorrhage.

Background While a significant number of studies have explored the management of obstetric emergencies in various settings, there is still a notable lack of qualitative research specifically examining the experience of surviving postpartum hemorrhage from women's perspectives. Most available studies have focused on reviewing patients' medical records after sentinel maternal events to identify and determine contributing factors; however, qualitative studies with survivors have been scarce. Hence, the importance of interpreting and synthesizing the findings of qualitative research on women's experiences with postpartum hemorrhage.

Rationale Obstetric hemorrhage remains a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide, especially in developing countries. Despite scientific advances in obstetrics, postpartum hemorrhage continues to pose a significant challenge to reducing maternal deaths in many regions of the world. The experience of women who survive postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is like an unexpected whirlwind, where the chaos caused by obstetric bleeding erupts suddenly, often threatening their lives and the lives of their unborn children. Beyond the statistics associated with this event, surviving postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) represents a life-altering experience for women.

The available literature on the phenomenon under study reveals a growing gap in the synthesis of knowledge about lived experiences, leaving a theoretical void regarding what the experience of surviving a life-threatening condition represents and means for women.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis ("postpartum" AND "hemorrhage") ("woman" AND "pregnancy") AND ("experience") AND (major postpartum hemorrhage) AND (qualitative research) AND (grounded theory) AND (phenomenology) OR (ethnography) AND (narrative research) AND (interviews) OR (focus groups).

Eligibility criteria This review will consider studies that investigated the experiences of women who experienced postpartum hemorrhage in diverse sociocultural contexts. All experiences of healthcare in maternal and perinatal services will be considered, regardless of the setting and type of care provider.

Source of evidence screening and selection This review will consider studies that included the following qualitative results will be considered: experiences of women who experienced postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) and the care provided by healthcare providers, and experiences of women who experienced an episode of postpartum hemorrhage. It will also consider primary qualitative research studies based on descriptive qualitative, ethnographic, and autoethnographic designs, grounded theory, phenomenological approaches, life histories, and participatory action research.

Data management The data analysis for this qualitative synthesis will be carried out according to the guidelines of Sandelowski and Barroso and a constant comparative analysis. To ensure methodological rigor, a self-assessment of the review was conducted, applying the criteria of the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool in Spanish, designed to evaluate and understand methodological aspects in qualitative systematic reviews.

Language restriction Only publications in English, Spanish, and Portuguese will be accepted.

Country(ies) involved Colombia.

Keywords Obstetric nursing, Postpartum hemorrhage, Qualitative research.

Contributions of each author

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