



# **PREVALENCE OF FEMALE SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION AMONG WOMEN SUBMITTED TO CAESAREAN SECTION IN BRAZIL**

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# INTRODUCTION



- In Brazil more than 30% of all childbirths are delivered by Caesarean section (BEMFAM, 1997; STANTON, 2006).



# NON-CLINICAL REASONS FOR CAESAREAN



- Female sterilization performed at the same time as the Caesarean section
- Fear of childbirth
- Preservation of sexual function and sexual attractiveness (BARROS *et al.* 1991; FAÚNDES, CECATTI 1991; FAÚNDES, CECATTI 1993).



# MEDICAL LITERATURE



- Vaginal childbirth as cause of flaccid vaginal muscles
- Woman's sexual attractiveness
- Caesarean section as prophylactic procedure (DINIZ 1996; DAVIS-FLOYD 1994; DINIZ 2006).



# FEMALE SEXUAL PROBLEMS




Psychological suffering - essential point  
Sexual functioning model

dysfunction of desire, excitement, orgasm and  
pain disorders (BASSON *et al* 2000).

Based on aetiology

socio-cultural, political or economic factors,  
relating to partner and relationship,  
psychological factors or due to medical  
factors (TIEFFER *et al* 2002).





# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION



Perception and feelings about their body  
and sexuality



Cultural X Biological

More important than presence of objective  
evidence of perineal relaxation

## Caesarean section

- Medical procedure X Social practice
- Different meanings and discourse
- “Vaginal delivery may affect negatively the woman’s sexual life”.

No scientific evidence for a protective role of Caesarean section in female sexual dysfunction (KLEIN et al., 2005; BOTROS et al., 2006; BRUMMEN et al., 2006; GUNGOR et al., 2007; BASAK et al., 2007).



High rates of Caesarean section

- medicalization of women's health
- several causes and origins

Deconstruction of what is said and of social practices

- different meanings about Caesarean in Brazil (POTTER *et al.*, 2001)






# OBJECTIVES



## General

- Investigate the prevalence of female sexual dysfunction among women in Brazil according to their different delivery modes.

## Specific

- Identify the prevalence of sexual dysfunction among women who underwent **one Caesarean section**.
  - Identify the prevalence of sexual dysfunction among women who underwent **repeated Caesarean sections**.
  - Identify the prevalence of sexual dysfunction among women who underwent **vaginal delivery**.
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This study is designed to be both a quantitative and qualitative study

- A cross-sectional study
- In-depth interviews



# MY GRATITUDE TO

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- GFMER
- Robert Thomson
- WHO staff
- Lecturers
- Colleagues



# THANK YOU