

## Life Experiences on Pregnancy Reported by Women With Sickle Cell Anemia in University Hospital: Qualitative Study

### Abstract

This article aims to discuss, in the focus of qualitative research, the meanings of particular experiences associated with the phenomenon of pregnancy, as reported by women with sickle cell disease, treated at a university outpatient clinic. The sample had intentional construction, closed by the criterion of saturation of information. It was composed of nine subjects, aged 19 to 35 years, during pregnancy from 16 to 30 weeks, with follow-up in a university hospital in southeastern Brazil. Semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions were conducted, recorded, transcribed and subjected to qualitative content analysis. From this analysis, the authors chose three categories for this disclosure: (1) ambiguity between desires and fears of pregnancy: a balance or imbalance?, (2) losses and disappointments: a reasonable management, (3) meanings of the emotional support from family and staff. It was concluded that despite the experience of anxiety that usually involve pregnant women with sickle cell disease, clinical conditions did not represent emotional impediments to a clear manifestation of the desire for motherhood.

*Key Words:* Sickle Cell Anemia, Hematologic Pregnancy Complications, Psychological Adaptation, Genetic Counseling, Nursing Care, Qualitative Research.