

#189 Pregnancy and Parenthood as a Woman in Orthopaedic Surgery: A Scoping Review



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Background

- Orthopaedic surgery (OS) remains the surgical specialty with the lowest proportion of women (Van Heest, 2020).
- Gender-based discrimination can affect women who are, or who wish to become, parents while pursuing a career in OS; this could be contributing to the gender gap (Nemeth, 2020).

Research Aims

- (1) To characterize the current literature pertaining to pregnancy and parenthood as a woman in OS
- (2) To synthesize the perceptions and experiences of and about pregnant and parenting women in OS

Methods

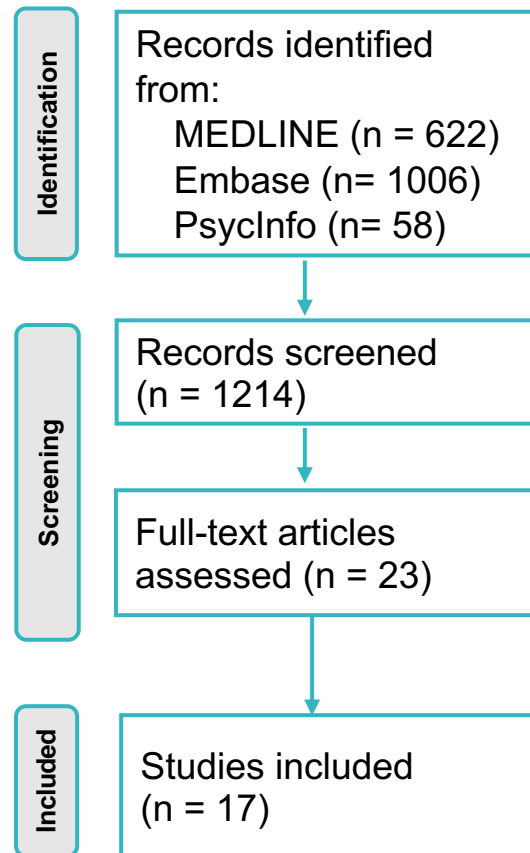


Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram

- Arksey and O'Malley framework for scoping studies followed
- Embase, MEDLINE, and PsycINFO searched on June 7th, 2021 with combinations of terms: pregnancy, parenthood, maternal, and OS
- Inclusion: attendings, fellows, and residents
- Quantitative and qualitative analyses performed to characterize the literature and identify themes

Results

- **17 studies included**
- 2006-2021 with **>50% published within last 2 years**
- **Location: USA (n=15), UK (n=2)**
- Study design: **survey (n=13), review (n=3), case series (n=1)**



When asked about reasons for delaying having children, women residents were significantly more likely than men residents to report concerns regarding reputation (57.6% versus 0.8%, $p < 0.001$) and effects on career opportunities (42.4% versus 7.6%, $p < 0.001$) (Reid, 2021).

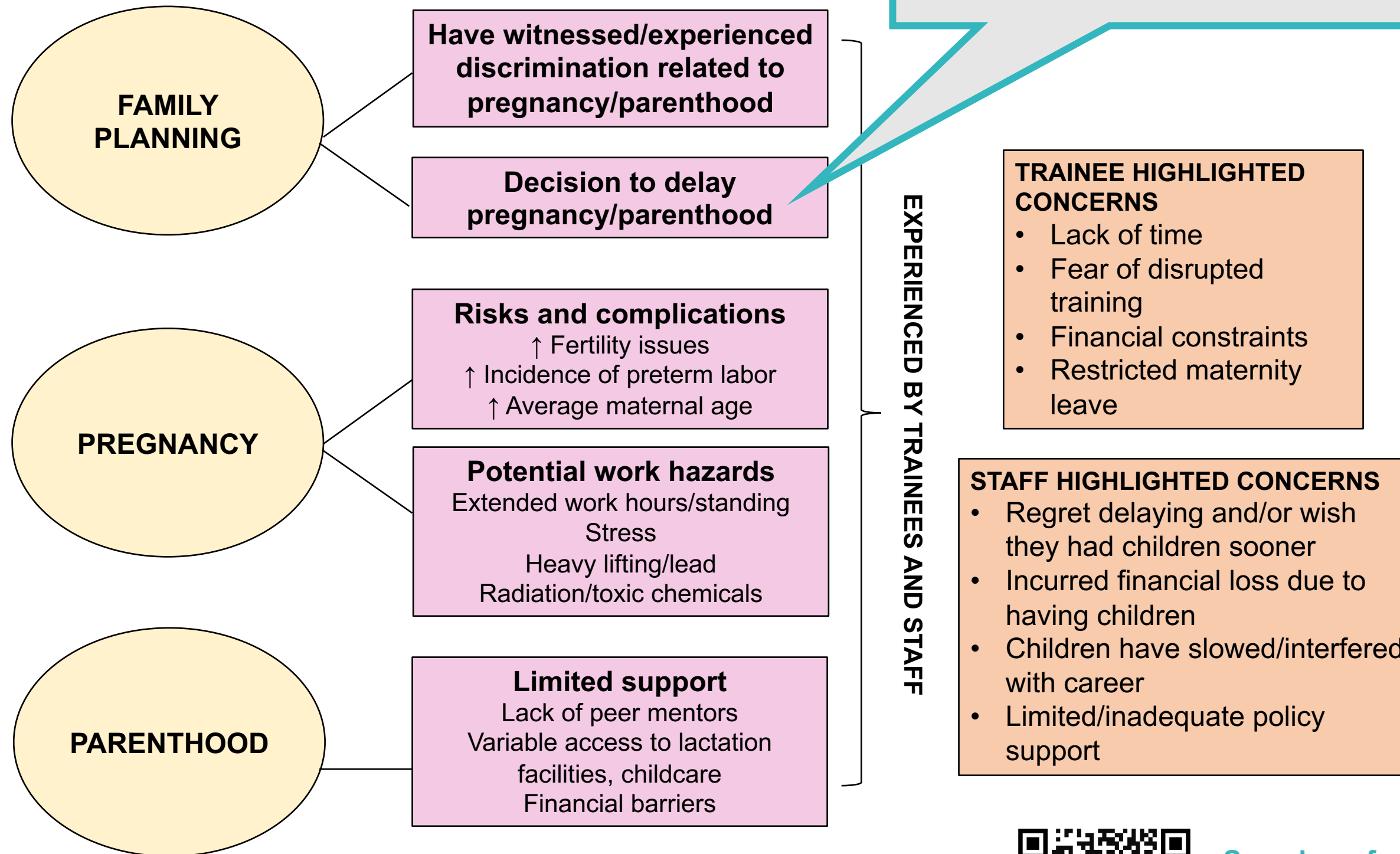


Figure 2: Results of thematic analysis revealed three stages at which pregnant and parenting women surgeons encountered gender-based discrimination, as well as structural and social barriers to wellbeing.



Scan here for references, contact info, and more.

First Author (Year)	Ham. (2012)	Poon (2020)	Reid (2021)
Respondents with at least one child, n (%)	128 (57.4)	452 (60.0)	179 (39.5)
Mean number of children	2.1	NR	1.6
Mean age at time of first delivery	33.1	33.6	NR
Delay in childbearing due to career, n (%)	NR	304 (67.4)	191 (42.9)
Pregnancy complication, n (%)	82 (31.2)	207 (24.4)	NR
Miscarriage, n (%)	17 (6.5)	160 (32.9)	NR
Infertility, n (%)	45 (35.2)	NR	NR
Fertility treatment, n (%)	27 (21.1)	105 (12.4)	NR

Table 1: Pregnancy characteristics in survey studies.

Future Directions

- (1) Investigate local barriers to recruitment/retainment of woman surgeons who have or wish to start a family; consider qualitative methods for an understanding of local issues.
- (2) Investigate factors influencing fertility and pregnancy complications; consider using experimental research methods.

Conclusion

Experiences of pregnancy and parenthood represent one element of gender-based discrimination in orthopaedic surgery that may be perpetuating the gender gap. A concerted effort is needed to shift the culture to embrace rather than denounce the possibility of pregnancy and parenthood for women in orthopaedics.