

AUTHORS

Eden MISSAMOU BANTSIMBA eden.m.kine@gmail.com Work supervisor : Nadine STREIT

Female genital mutilation and pelvic floor rehabilitation : care relationship and communication in an intercultural context

AFFILIATIONS

CEERRF School of Physiotherapy, Saint-Denis, France

What is the physiotherapists' experiences in dealing with interculturality when providing care to women who have undergone female genital mutilation ?





In recent decades, global migration has brought

this harmful tradition into Western societies,

where it was not originally prevalent.

Western healthcare professionals often

encounter challenges when treating FGM

survivors, as they may lack knowledge and face

difficulties in providing care.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.



Over 230 millions girls and women worldwide have undergone FGM.

2. <u>Objectives</u>

This study aimed to explore French physiotherapists' experiences with intercultural dynamics during perineal care for FGM survivors.

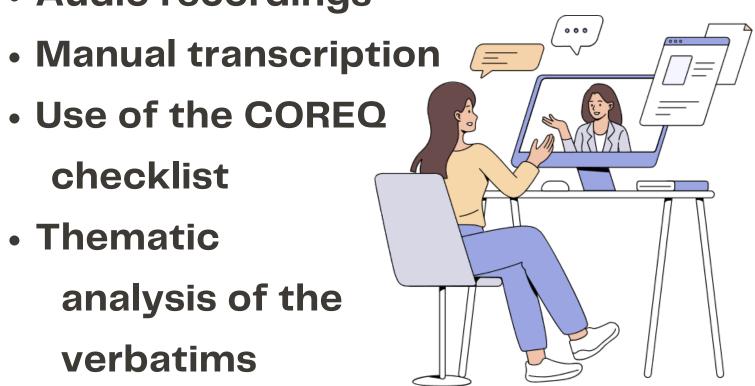
0

<u>Methodology</u> 3.

Conduction of semi-structured interviews with physiotherapists and analysis that involved :

 Interpretative phenomenological analysis approach

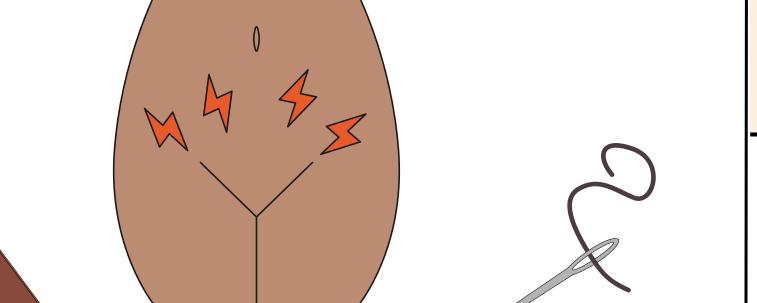
- Audio recordings

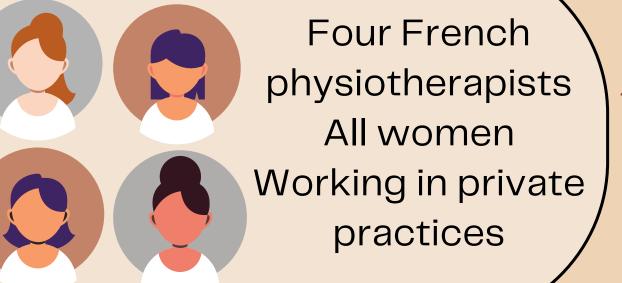




Taking culture into account in the discussion

"You have to **understand the culture**; you're treating a human being, not just a mutilation."





Several challenges encountered :

"We are not trained to care for patients who are from a different culture than our own." "We're not very good at conveying messages because we are so biased by our own Western culture."

Discussed strategies: Improving cultural awareness – Developing professional networks – Taking part in training programs – Applying ta communication strategies

5. Discussion

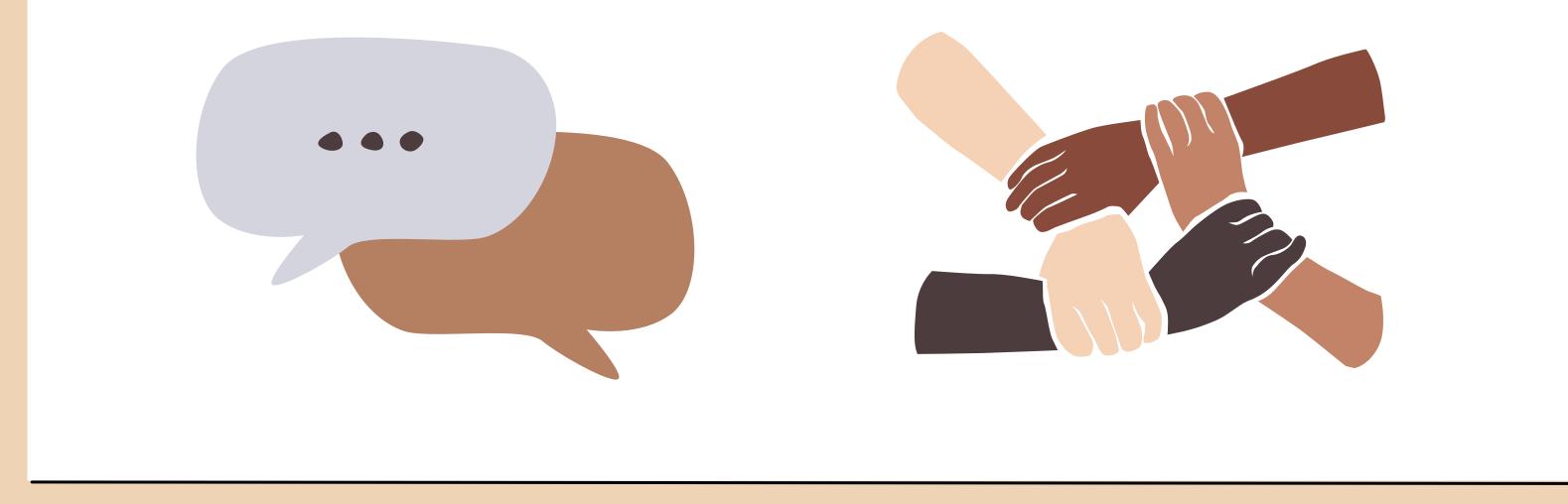
Cultural differences between physiotherapists and FGM survivors can affect the care relationship. Physiotherapists identified key challenges in their interactions with patients :

- Communication barriers,
- Differing perceptions of care,
- Varying expectations regarding roles of the patient and/or the physiotherapist

This corroborates certain theories found in the literature :

The concept of "patient-physician ethnicity **concordance**" and its impact on adherence and communication

The theory of "individualist and collectivist cultures" differences and its implication on the perception of health and care



6. Conclusion

Physiotherapists emphasized the need to provide **tailored care** to women who have been subjected to FGM, taking into account their socio-cultural environment and the occurrence of such traumatic event. The establishment of a cultural sensitive professional network, the integration of prevention in care and communication **about FGM** are few examples of identified improvement topics.

Related literature

- World Health Organization. Care of girls and women living with female genital mutilation : a clinical handbook. Geneva, World Health Organization 2018.
- Rocque R, Leanza Y. A Systematic Review of Patients' Experiences in Communicating with Primary Care Physicians: Intercultural Encounters and a Balance between Vulnerability and Integrity. PLOS ONE 2015;10:e0139577. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0139577.
- Kaplan-Marcusan A, Torán-Monserrat P, Moreno-Navarro J, Fàbregas MJC, Muñoz Ortiz L. Perception of primary health care to intercultural competence. BMC Health Serv Res 2009;9:11. https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6963-9-11.
- Suurmond J, Seeleman C. Shared decision-making in an intercultural context. Barriers in the interaction between physicians and immigrant patients. Patient Educ Couns 2006;60:253–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2005.01.012.