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| **ISA ISPID  Abstract Submission  Nº: 244**   |  | | --- | | Topics: **Stillbirth** | | Type: **Oral** | | **How couples make sense of the decision to get pregnant after pregnancy loss** | | **Murphy, Margaret**1; **O Donoghue, Keelin**2; **Savage, Eileen** 3; **Leahy-Warren, Patricia**3 *1 - School of Nursing & Midwifery, University College Cork; Pregnancy Loss Research Group, Cork University Maternity Hospital and International Stillbirth Alliance. 2 - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecolcogy, University College Cork and Pregnancy Loss Research Group, Cork University Maternity Hospital. 3 - School of Nursing & Midwifery, University College Cork.* | | **Introduction** Miscarriage and stillbirth remain the most common complications of pregnancy with one in four pregnancies affected. Many women and their partners achieve a pregnancy after loss. Pregnancy after pregnancy loss is associated with increased physical and psychological co-morbidities1. Pregnancy after loss often occurs within a short time frame of the index loss. There is a lack of consensus as to what constitutes the optimal time interval between these pregnancies. In the general obstetric population it is estimated that 50% of all pregnancies in high income countries may be planned. In the pregnancy after loss population studies have suggested the number of planned pregnancies may be higher. This may indicate consensus between the partners. The decision to have another baby may be one the couple makes together to date this has not been explored in the research. The aim of this qualitative, Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) study was to explore couples experiences of pregnancy after stillbirth and late miscarriage.  **Material and Methods** In-depth, semi structured interviews were conducted with eight heterosexual couples in the immediate pregnancy after stillbirth or late miscarriage. Couples were interviewed together to co-create an account of their experiences. Full ethical approval was obtained and access was facilitated via the gatekeepers. Couples who met the inclusion criteria were invited to meet with the researcher. Couples met the researcher at a location and time of their choosing. The study was explained and any questions addressed. Couples were assured of confidentiality, anonymity and that they could withdraw from the study at any time. When both members were happy to proceed, written consent was obtained. Participation was entirely voluntary and counselling was available at each stage of the process if required. All interviews were audio recorded and were 72 to 134 minutes in duration. In keeping with the strict principles of IPA2, data were anonymised, transcribed verbatim, cleaned, and coded. These codes identified themes in individual interviews. Each interview was analysed entirely before moving onto the next. From this meticulous process larger subordinate and superordinate themes were identified. A fully auditable trail was maintained.  **Results** This research was undertaken for a doctoral research programme, the thesis and viva defence are outstanding, and therefore limited results are available before September 2016. Two main superordinate themes emerged exploring couples’ experiences of pregnancy after loss. Within one of these larger themes a subordinate theme exploring how couples’ negotiate the decision to get pregnant after loss will be presented. This presentation offers a unique insight into couples’ experiences of this process as it has not been examined in previous research studies to date.  **Conclusions** This research is unique as it is the first to examine the dynamics of couples as a unit or dyad in the face of pregnancy after loss. The research offers new insights on how couples experience and support one another in a pregnancy after loss. The research makes recommendations for supportive interventions for couples pregnant after loss, and for further research and education in this area. 1 Heazell et al (2016) Stillbirths: economic and psychosocial consequences The Lancet Volume 387, No. 10018, p604–616. 2  Smith J, Flowers P and Larkin M (2009) *Interpretative phenomenological analysis: theory, method and research* Los Angeles: Sage | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **CONTACT** | | | Name: | **Margaret** | | Lastname: | **Murphy** | | E-mail: | **mgt.murphy@ucc.ie** | | Country: | **Ireland** | | Institution | **School of Nursing & Midwifery, University College Cork; Pregnancy Loss Research Group, Cork University Maternity Hospital and International Stillbirth Alliance** | | Cellphone: | **00353876502167** | | City: | **Cork** | |