

# UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL IMPACTS AND THE TRUTH OF TAIWANESE WOMEN'S REQUEST FOR REPEAT CESAREAN DELIVERY

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- Disclosure of Interests

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# BACKGROUND

- **Increasing caesarean rate worldwide** (WHO, 2010; Soltani & Sandall, 2012; Declercq, Young, Cabral, & Ecker, 2011).
  
- **Caesarean delivery (CD) not only increases maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality but also results in an increase in the cost of health care** (Declercq, Young, Cabral, & Ecker, 2007; Gibbons et al., 2010; Souza et al., 2010)

- A previous caesarean accounts for one-third of all births by caesarean delivery (Grusec et al 2010)

US 92%, UK 44 %, Australia 83 %, Taiwan 92 %

(Heron et al 2009; Law & Sullivan 2009; NICE 2004; Li 2005)

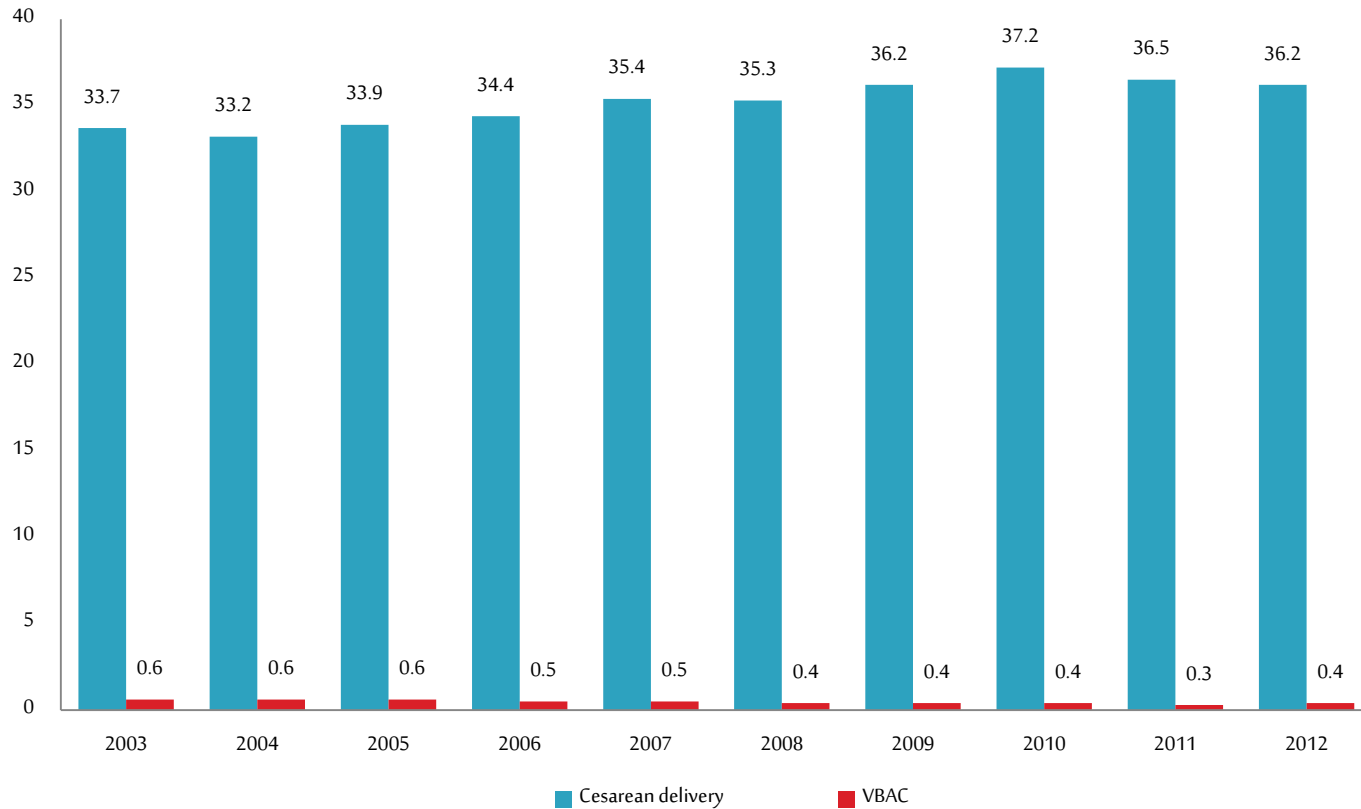
- 'Once a caesarean, always a caesarean'

- VBAC is a safe intervention to reduce caesarean delivery and a reasonable option for women who have had a previous caesarean

(NIH 2010)

- A dramatic decline in VBAC because of concern about uterine rupture.

# Caesarean rates and VBAC rates in Taiwan



Source: Health Promotion administration(2012). Live Births and Still Births by Method of Delivery.



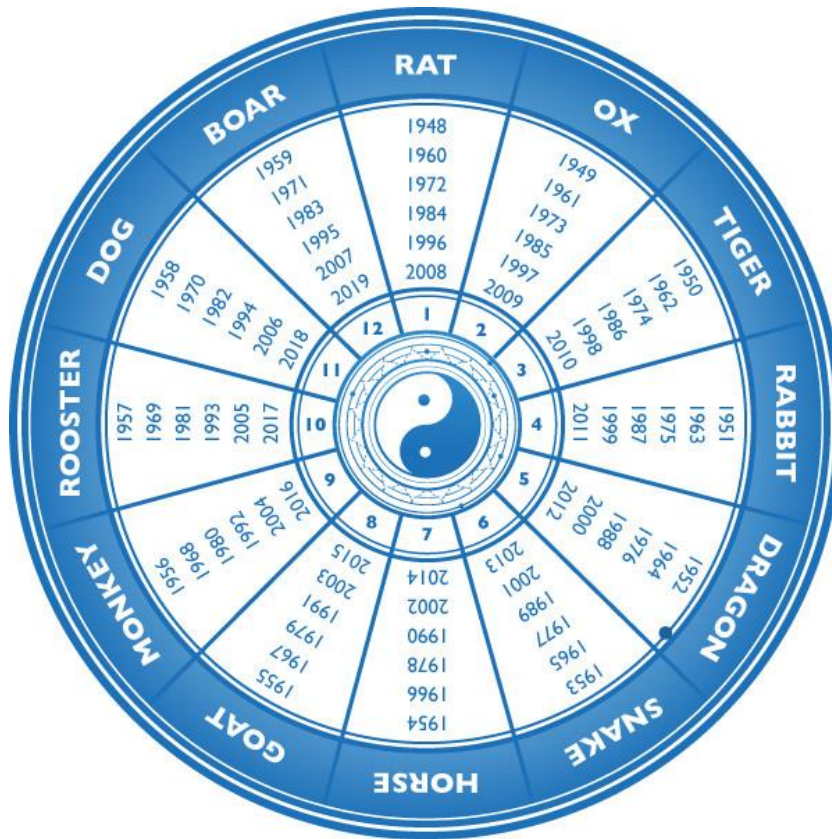
Vaginal birth after  
caesarean VBAC

Repeat caesarean  
delivery RCD

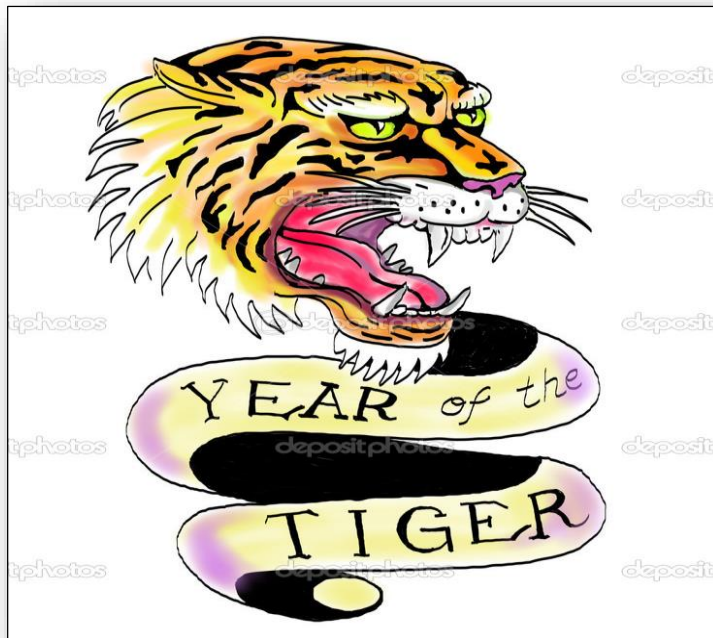
Optimal birth  
choice



Taiwanese women prefer auspicious times for giving birth, contributing to a high caesarean rate in Chinese society.



In the year of dragon, the total fertility rate increasing the fertility rate dramatically to 1.27 per 1000 (Health Promotion administration, 2012)



In the year of the tiger, the total fertility rate dropped to 0.89 per 1000 (Health Promotion administration, 2010)





# An inauspicious month for giving birth-ghost month



A variety of ghosts will come out in the lunar month of July



# RESEARCH AIM

- To explore cultural impacts on and reasoning behind Taiwanese women's request for repeat cesarean delivery (RCD).

# RESEARCH DESIGN

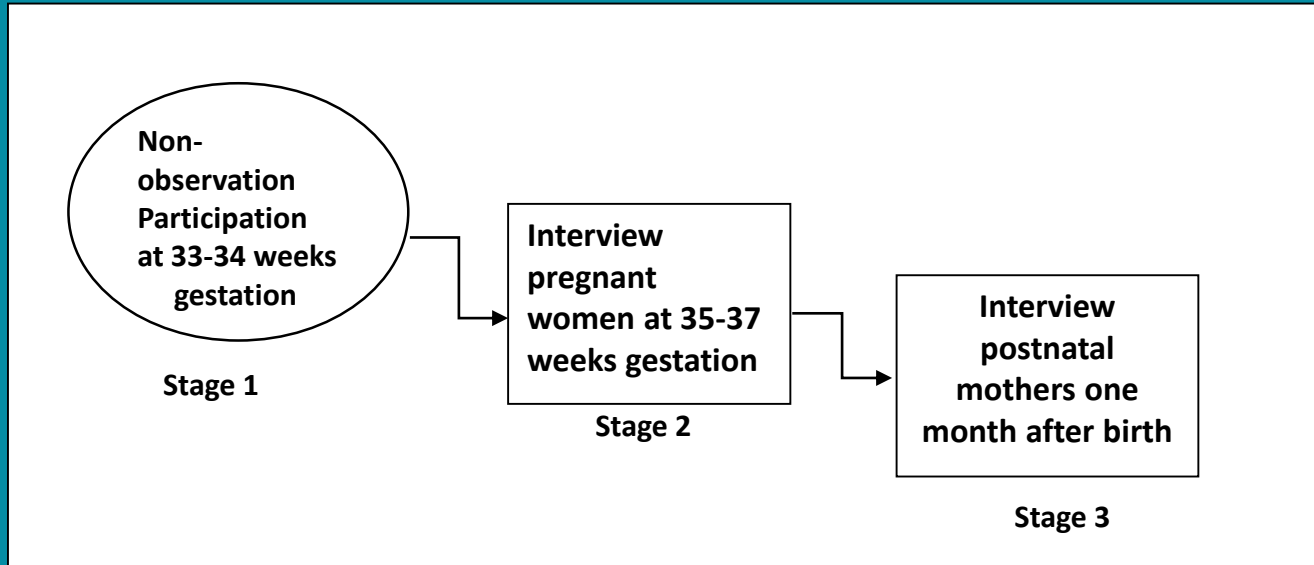
Qualitative research



**Theoretical sampling :**  
in a private medical centre, the OPD of  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in the Year  
of the Dragon, 2012



# Data collection and procedure



## Data analysis

Thematic analysis and constant comparative analysis (NVivo10)

## Research rigour

Credibility, confirmability, dependability and transferability

# FINDINGS

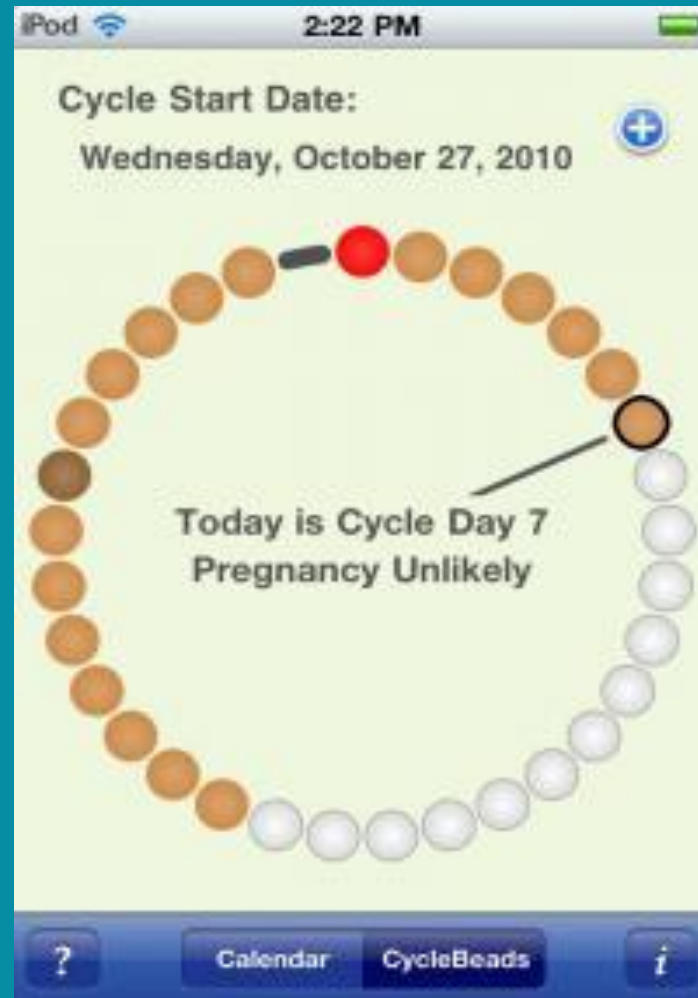
- Women did not intend to give birth in the Year of the Dragon
- Reasons
  - increasing children's competitiveness in academic performance,
  - running out of education resources,
  - encountering crowds of people (such as visiting obstetricians).



- Women were pregnant in the auspicious year

- Reason

- an unplanned pregnancy,
- planned pregnancy with a 2-3 year interval since previous birth,
- wishing to have another baby as company for the first child.



# Factors influencing women's decisions for RCD

## Internal factors

- A previous caesarean
- A negative previous birth experience
- Fear of vaginal birth
- Evaluation of mode of birth
- Current pregnancy

## External factors

- Information resources
  - obstetricians' recommendations
  - the experiences of significant others
  - media
- Health insurance

# Decision-making processes

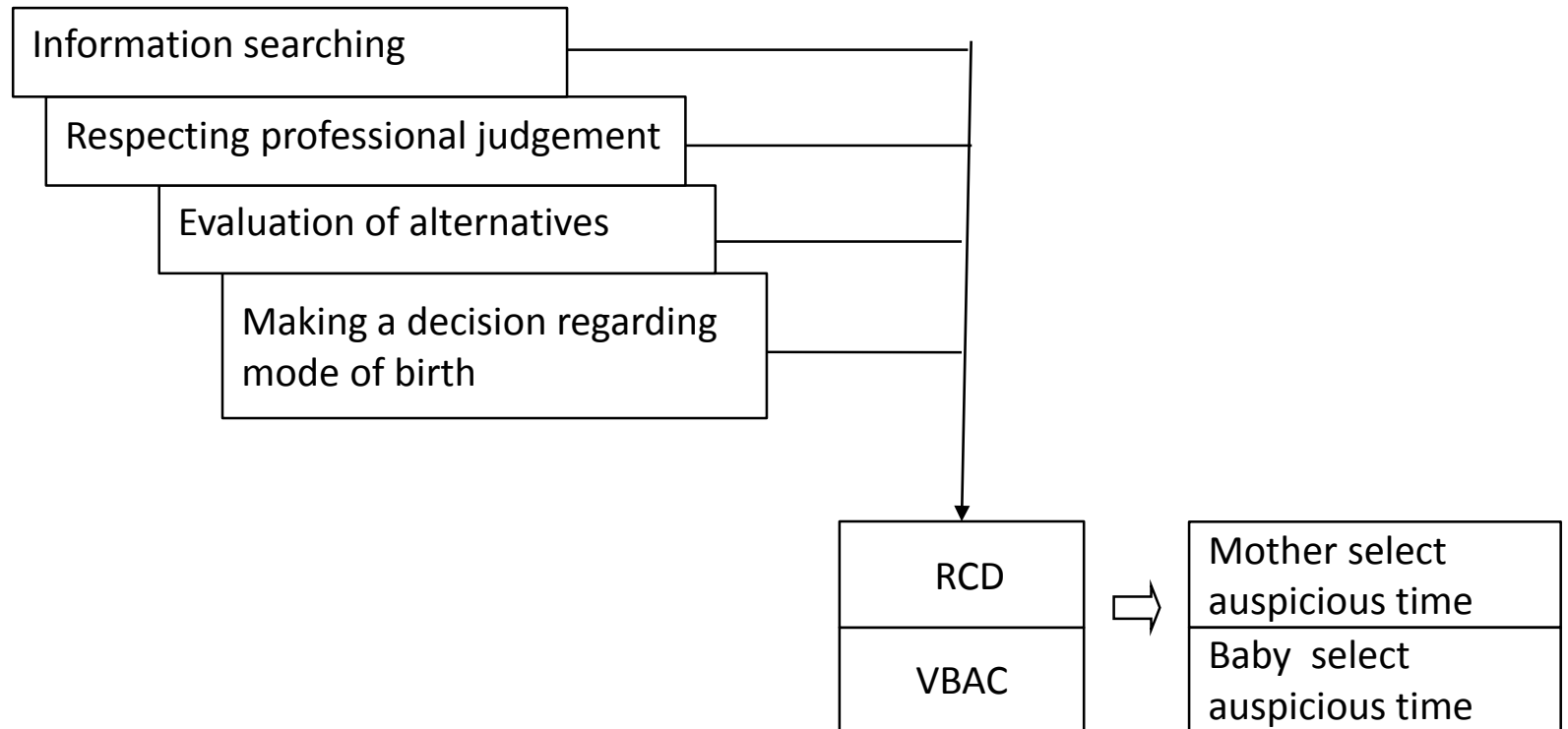
-Simply complying with the obstetrician's recommendation (during the first trimester of pregnancy)

## -Consultation

Before visiting the obstetrician, the majority of women wished for as natural a birth as possible (at the second or early third trimester of pregnancy).



# Decision making processes and outcomes



# DISCUSSION

## ➤ Obstetricians' recommendation

-Patient safety and risk management



## ➤ Previous birth experience

- Positive experience →  
choose same mode of birth
- Negative experience →  
choose different mode of birth



## ➤ Fear of vaginal birth

Fear pain twice → education about empowerment of vaginal birth

## ➤ National Health Insurance

provides financial coverage for women who have had a previous caesarean → potentially modifiable

➤ Women did not receive sufficient information regarding VBAC from health professionals. Instead, Internet is main source of information.

# CONCLUSION

The auspicious time/year to give birth did not impact on Taiwanese women's birth choice following a primary cesarean section. However, they selected an auspicious time/day to give birth if the decision for RCD was made.

Safety and risk management were the major influences for both women and obstetricians' decision making.

**Thank you for your attention**

