

ABSTRACT

Titel: From photographer to birth assistant – fathers' birth experiences in relation to midwifery support.

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Background: Only 35 years ago, the father was not a part of the birthing context as he is today, where he attends most births and supports the woman during the birth. A newly published Swedish study found, that 26 % of the fathers' experienced the birth as less positive. We therefore find it relevant to explore, how we as future midwives give the best possible support, towards the father during the normal birth, with the intention to strengthen the fathers' birth experiences and the family process.

Objective: How can the midwife provide best possible support towards the father in the birth room during the normal birth?

Methods: We first sought to answer our objective by analyzing the qualitative study *Support during labour: First time fathers' description of requested and received support during the birth of their child*. The results were then analyzed towards our objective under the use of K.E. Løgstrups theory of ethics in the relations between people. We then discussed the results of the analysis while using secondary literature, including the ethical guidelines for Danish midwives.

Conclusion: We reached the conclusion, that best possible support towards the father concerns, how the midwife recognizes the father as an important part of the birth, which can be achieved by an increased focus on communication, involvement and acknowledgement of the father's individual needs. We can furthermore conclude, that this project inspires to further research on the Danish fathers' needs for midwifery support during the birth.

Keywords: Fathers, midwife, childbirth, support, ethics