

SUBSEQUENT FERTILITY, PREGNANCY, GYNAECOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OUTCOMES AFTER MATERNAL-FETAL SURGERY FOR OPEN SPINA BIFIDA: A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

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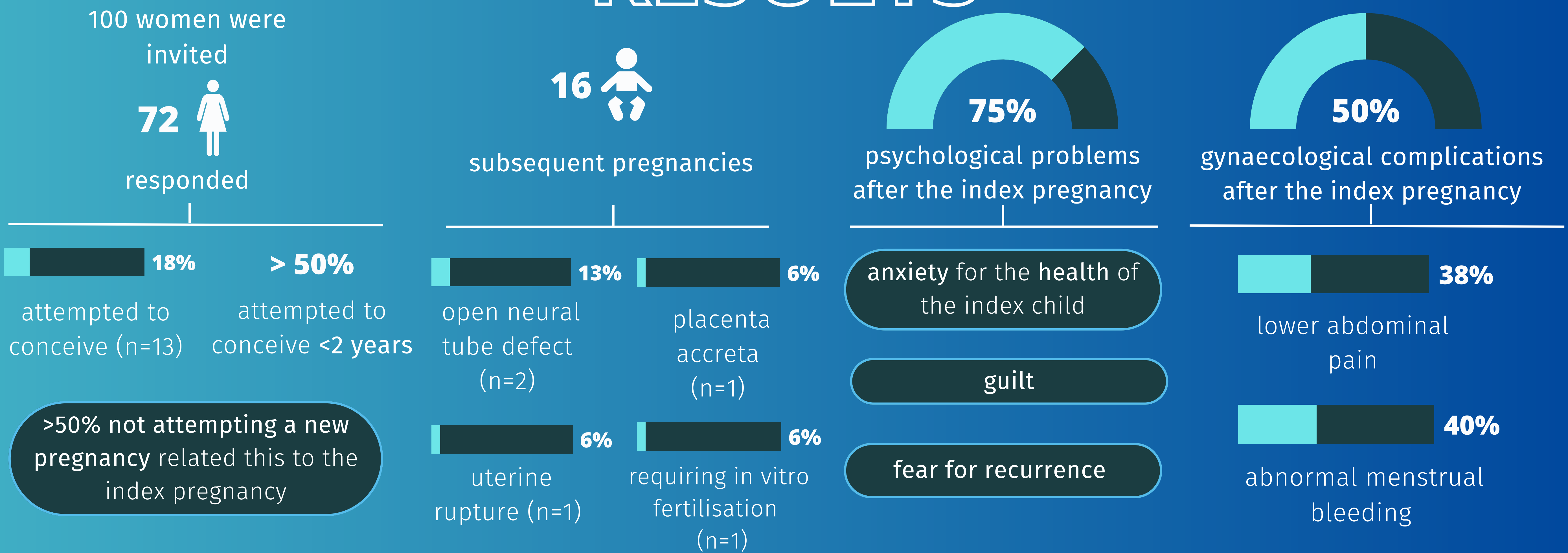
BACKGROUND

- **Open spina bifida** (5/10.000 births): motoric and sensoric dysfunction^{1,2}
- Little is known on **potential fertility, gynaecological and psychological problems** in women undergoing fetal surgery

METHODS

- **Single-centre cross sectional study** with mothers who had open fetal surgery between March 2012 - December 2021
- Conducted at the **Fetal Medicine Unit of the University Hospitals Leuven**
- Survey queried **subsequent fertility, pregnancy and gynaecological outcomes**

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

- Open fetal surgery had **no long-term adverse effects on fertility**
- In 2/16 pregnancies severe complications: uterine rupture and placenta accreta
- ± 50% of respondents reported gynaecological complications, only half of them consulted a physician
- Given that 75% of individuals reported psychological problems related to the index pregnancy, **extended psychological support is recommended**