**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Abortion is a complex subject that leads to a bioethical discussion. At the same time it is estimated that different psychological consequences occur according to the abortions’ etiology, in women and men.

**Objectives:** To reflect about the ethical implications of abortion; to understand the impact of the different kind of abortions regarding psychological morbidity and perceived quality in couple relationship, in both elements. Specifically, the study wishes to identify gender differences in the impact of the several kind of abortions regarding emotional disorder, traumatic symptoms and perceived quality in couple relationship, in the first and sixth month after abortion; understand how the perceived quality in couple relationship balance the effect of the different kind of abortions in psychological morbidity.

**Materials and methods:** Participants were recruited from the Gynecology and Obstetrics Unit in Hospital de São João, Porto. The inclusion criterion was the realization of any kind of abortion. In order to accomplish the aims of the study, different evaluation instruments were used in first and sixth month after abortion. The procedure involved assessment in the hospital or by mail.

**Results:** Results show that emotional disorder is common in the first month after the abortion, regardless etiology, which decreases over time. Also there is an increasing perceived quality in couple relationship over time with an abortion regarding health issues from the mother or the fetus. The moderation effect exists in traumatic symptoms according to abortions’ etiology. Results show that participants who had voluntary abortions and had a greater level of perceived quality in couple relationship, get lower traumatic symptoms.

**Conclusions:** The ethical discussion about the several etiologies of abortion brings to light the concern about intra-uterine life value, but also towards the respect for individual autonomy. Even though the multiplicity perspectives about the intra-uterine life moral status, this thesis concludes that different perspectives over this matter are acceptable, in the allocation of values about the interpersonal diversity, given the impossibility to demonstrate when the beginning of human life takes place.

Regarding the psychological aspects, social support, like couple relationship, has shown to be a very important variable. For this reason, it is suggested that should be considered in further investigation and also at the pre and post-abortion counseling, promoting the experience of abortion in a couple level.