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Objective

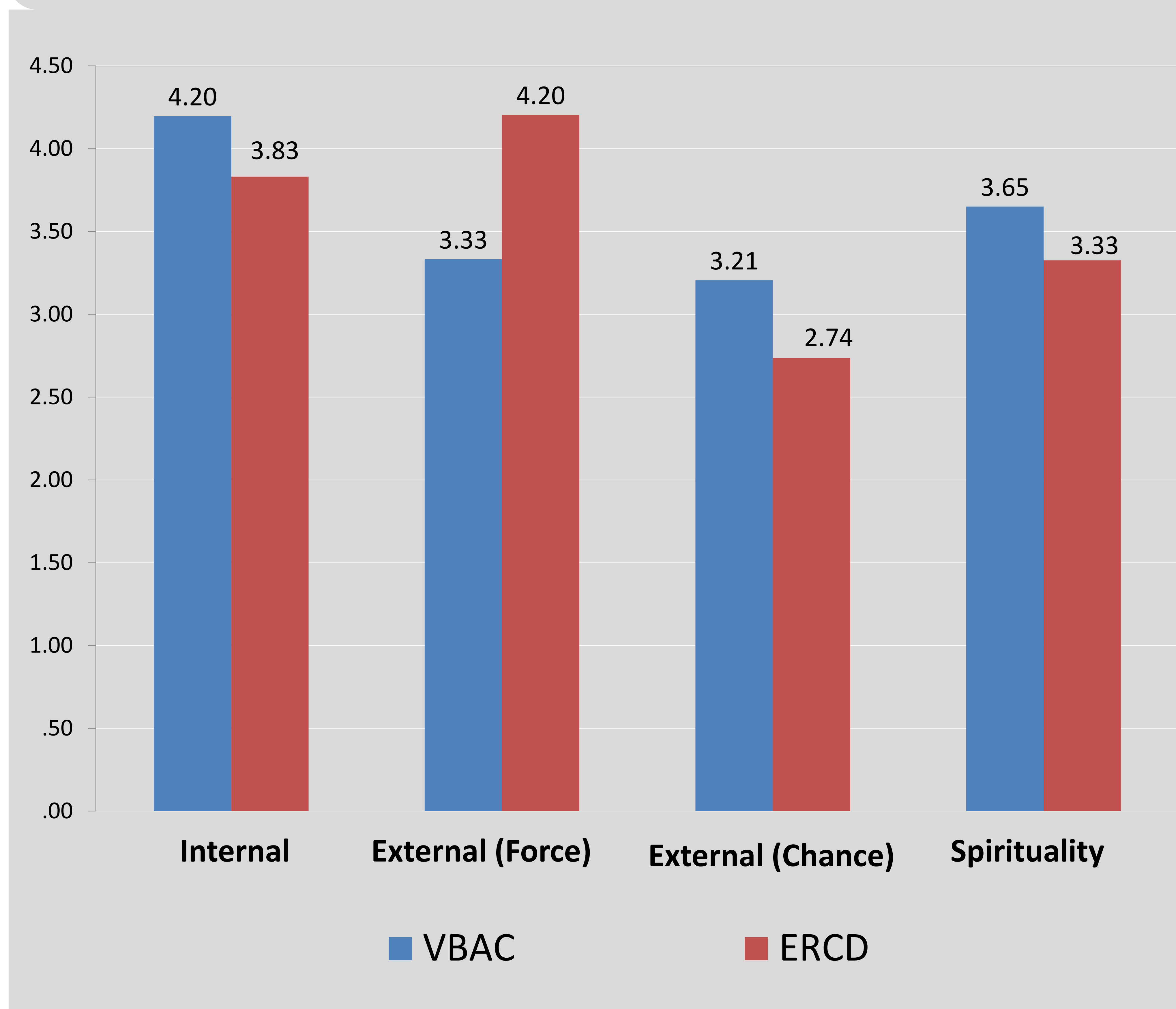
To investigate factors influencing women's choice of trial of labor after cesarean (TOLAC) or elective repeat cesarean delivery (ERCD) based on the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control (MHLC), religious observance, and family planning.

Methods

Cross-sectional study of women at Meir Medical Center and Laniado Hospital in Israel who were candidates for TOLAC or ERCD. Women completed a demographic questionnaire and a questionnaire using Form C of the MHLC scale

Results

The study included 197 women, 101 for TOLAC and 96 for ERCD. Women who chose TOLAC were more religious, wanted more children and had higher Internal and Chance health locus of control. Women who chose ERCD were more likely to be secular and had a higher health locus of control influenced by Powerful Others, most notably physicians. Women who reported being influenced by physicians were more likely to choose ERCD. Women not influenced by others were likelier to choose TOLAC.



Conclusion

A woman's choice of TOLAC or ERCD is influenced by her sense of control over her health, degree of religious observance, and number of children desired. Health care providers can use this information to better understand, counsel, and educate their patients on the appropriate delivery decision. If a woman feels in control over her health, educated about delivery options, and is less influenced by provider preference, more women might choose TOLAC; thus reducing the rate of unnecessary ERCD.