

Table 1 Summary of reviewed studies

Authors	Type of research	Participants	Results
Aram et al. (2002) (22)	Cross-sectional	500 parturients	Fearing vaginal delivery pain, doctor's recommendation, concern about infant health and mother's fitness, associated disease, high educational level, having job were associated with caesarean section.
Shareat et al. (2002) (67)	Cross-sectional	824 parturients	13.5% of caesarean sections were due to fear of vaginal delivery pain, or doctor's recommendation.
Alimohamadian et al. (2003) (62)	Cross-sectional	824 parturients	Mother's request or doctor's recommendation was the main reason for caesarean section.
Moradan (2004) (37)	Cross-sectional	400 pregnant women	The most common cause of tendency to caesarean section was fear from pain during vaginal delivery.
Mobaraki et al. (2005) (59)	Cross-sectional	7649 parturients	Doctor's recommendation, fear of vaginal delivery pain, and mother's request were the factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Mohammad et al. (2006) (73)	Cross-sectional	1473 parturients	Older age of women, higher level of education, higher socioeconomic status and hospitalization in private hospitals were associated with caesarean section.
Khosrovi et al. (2006) (55)	Cross-sectional	473 parturients	Caesarean section was more common in women with a better job, higher educational level and living in a city.
Seyed Noori et al. (2006) (46)	Cross-sectional	210 pregnant women	Infant health, fear of vaginal delivery pain, mother's safety, infant's safety, and friend's recommendation were the main factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Negahban et al. (2006) (27)	Cross-sectional	256 pregnant women	Fearing vaginal delivery pain, tube ligation, fearing infant's harm, fearing harm to female reproductive system, maternal health, views of partner and family, and living in a city were the factors associated with caesarean section.
Tabande & Kashani (2007) (40)	Cross-sectional	187 pregnant women	Low pain, fearing harm to female reproductive system, concern about infant safety, medical condition, and negative experience from previous childbirth were the factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Mohammaditabar et al. (2009) (30)	Cross-sectional	618 primiparous	Fear of labour pain and medical staff play a role in high caesarean section rate.
Mohammad et al. (2009) (58)	Cross-sectional	250 pregnant women	Doctor's recommendation, fearing vaginal delivery pain, previous caesarean section, and care given by private physician were the main factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Alavije et al. (2010) (32)	Cross-sectional	342 parturients	Lower pain, infant's health, maternal health and friends' opinion were associated with elective caesarean section.
Sharghi et al. (2010) (60)	Cohort study	396 pregnant women	Caesarean section was chosen as the most popular method for delivery. The most effective factor in decision-making was physician's suggestion.
Atghaei & Nouhi (2010) (29)	Cross-sectional	400 pregnant women	Fear of vaginal delivery pain was the main factor for elective caesarean section.
Fathian et al. (2010) (57)	Cross-sectional	195 parturients	Doctor's persistence, personal belief and mother's persistence were the factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Bahonar et al. (2010) (78)	Case-control	210 parturients	High educational level and family recommendation were associated with elective caesarean section.
Naseh et al. (2010) (72)	Cross-sectional	1500 parturients	Old age and education, and previous delivery experience were associated with elective caesarean section.
Moeini et al. (2011) (44)	Cross-sectional	346 pregnant women	Doctor's opinion, low pain, infant's safety, awareness of delivery time, and partner's suggestion were the factors leading to elective caesarean section.
Ghooshchian et al. (2011) (28)	Descriptive-analytical	300 pregnant women	Fearing vaginal delivery pain, advanced age, and negative previous childbirth experience led to elective caesarean section.