

## Abstract:

The bachelor thesis is devoted to the problems of epidural analgesia and is conceived as a theoretical-practical thesis.

The theoretical part describes the physiology of labour pain, division of labour analgesia into non-pharmacological and pharmacological methods, information about epidural analgesia, its advantages, indications and contraindications, examinations performed before the application. It also describes the pharmaceuticals used, the anatomy of spine with a focus on the epidural space, technique of application, specifics of care for a woman who has used epidural analgesia, and the complications that may occur. It also includes a summary of the history of use in the Czech Republic.

The practical part of the study is conducted using a printed anonymous questionnaire focused on satisfaction and use of epidural analgesia by women hospitalized in the six-week wards who gave birth at the Clinic of Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Neonatology of the 1st Faculty of Medicine of Charles University and the General University Hospital in Prague from 1. 1. 2024 to 31. 3. 2024. The data obtained are processed with graphical evaluation.

The practical part entails one main objective and four sub-objectives, all of which are fulfilled in the research investigation. The research data shows that on average, the labour pain is reduced by more than half, three quarters of the administration is initiated by the health care personnel, the vast majority of the parturients would use this method again, and it is also found that most of the reasons for not using epidural analgesia are obstetric in nature, and only one reason given involves the refusal of the method due to the parturient's fear.

**Keywords:** childbirth, vaginal delivery, obstetric analgesia, epidural analgesia, pain, pain relief