ABSTRACT

The present study examined the role of spousal support as a resilience factor in mitigating women’s grief reaction to recent reproductive loss. A total of 255 Hong Kong Chinese women who suffered various forms of reproductive loss were individually interviewed on their demographics, pregnancy characteristics, antenatal emotional attachment to the indexed fetus, perceived spousal emotional support, and grief reaction to the loss. Results of hierarchical multiple regression analysis confirmed the main effect of perceived spousal support. In particular, perceived spousal support remained a salient resilience factor in determining women’s adjustment to reproductive loss, even after controlling for demographic and pregnancy-related factors. Women who were childless or had few children, who developed strong emotional attachment to the indexed fetus during pregnancy, and who perceived low levels of spousal emotional support tended to report more intense grief symptoms. Limitations and implications of this study were also discussed.