Case Studies

# Chapter 11: Research design

Students Simone and Darren are planning the research study that they will undertake for their research dissertation module. They need to decide which research design to use.

Simone wants to explore the effect of a new non-pharmacological intervention to reduce perineal discomfort following episiotomy by comparing this with conventional treatment. Simone has decided to use a between participants post-test only design.

Darren wants to explore the effect of a new psychological intervention to enable teenage girls to manage their anorexia by comparing this with a conventional intervention. Darren has decided to use a within-participants design.

Select one of these scenarios and consider the following:

* Create a figure to illustrate what the study will look like (following the format of the figures presented in chapter 11).
* What practical and logistical factors may have influenced Simone/Darren’s decision about which research design to use?
* What are the benefits and drawbacks for Simone/Darren of using the research design that they have selected?
* Do you think an alternative research design would be better suited to Simone/Darren’s study? If so, which research design would you suggest and why?