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The expected child versus the actual child: implications for the mother-baby bond

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine whether women's perceptions of their infant remain stable between late pregnancy and the early postnatal period, and to examine the effects of these perceptions on the mother-baby bond. Paired observations were made at 36 weeks after birth. Questionnaires assessed women's perceptions of their infant's characteristics (postpartum) and their perceptions of their infant's characteristics (expected) and the mother-baby bond. The effects of parity and postnatal anxiety and depression on the mother-baby bond. The effects of parity and postnatal anxiety and depression were

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also examined. The results are discussed, suggesting that a subgroup of women who have negative perceptions of their infant before and after birth may be at risk of mother-infant attachment problems and long-term mother-infant difficulties.

Notes

ns = nonsignificant.

Possible range: Fussy 9–63; Unadaptable 5–35; Dull 4–28; Unpredictable 5–35; Total 23–161.

Related Research Data

Mother-infant Bonding Impairment Across the First 6 Months Postpartum: The Primacy of Psychopathology in Women With Childhood Abuse and Neglect Histories

Source: Springer Science and Business Media LLC

Determinants of maternal fetal attachment in women from a community-based sample

Source: Informa UK Limited

Maternal representations and emotional availability among drug-abusing and nonusing mothers and their infants.

Source: Wiley

Symptoms of postnatal depression in women with the couple's attachment style

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