Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology ›

Volume 25, 2007 - Issue 1

1,841 Views | 99 CrossRef citations to date | 16 Altmetric

Other

Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder in couples after birth: association with the couple's relationship and parent–baby bond

Susan Ayers, Daniel B. Wright & Nicola Wells

Pages 40-50 | Received 26 May 2006, Accepted 02 Aug 2006, Published online: 01 Feb 2007

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/02646830601117175

Sample our Behavioral Sciences Journals

>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article Figures & data References Citations Metrics

Reprints & Permissions Read this article Share

Abstract

Recent research suggests a proportion of women develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after childbirth. To date, the effects of postnatal PTSD on the couple's relationship and the parent–baby bond have not been examined. In the present study, 64 couples completed questionnaires about the birth, symptoms of PTSD, the couple's relationship and parent–baby bond 9 weeks after childbirth.

Results showed 5% of men and women had severe symptoms of PTSD. Symptoms were strongly associated within couples and were related to similar birth factors for men and women. PTSD symptoms were associated with neither the parent–baby bond nor couple's relationship. The mother–baby bond was not associated with any variables

measured in this study. However, the father–baby bond was associated with the couple's relationship. It is concluded that men and women have comparable levels of PTSD symptoms 9 weeks after birth. Furthermore, these results suggest postnatal symptoms of PTSD have little association with the couple's relationship or the parent–baby bond in the short term. However, further research is needed to address methodological considerations.

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 99

The effect of post-natal symptoms of post-traumatic stress and depression on the couple's relationship and parent–baby bond >

Ylva M. Parfitt et al.
Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology
Published online: 13 May 2009

The effects of childbirth-related post-traumatic stress disorder on women and their relationships: A qualitative study >

Susan Ayers et al.
Psychology, Health & Medicine
Published online: 23 Jan 2007

Childbirth, trauma and family relationships >

Shani Reshef et al.
European Journal of Psychotraumatology
Published online: 12 Jan 2023

View more

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy

Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG