Taylor & Francis Online

Home ▶ All Journals ▶ Behavioral Sciences ▶ Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology ▶ List of Issues ▶ Volume 27, Issue 2 ▶ The effect of post-natal symptoms of pos ....

Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology ›

Volume 27, 2009 - Issue 2

3,734 Views | 170 CrossRef citations to date | 60 Altmetric

Articles

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

Ylva M. Parfitt & Susan Ayers

Pages 127-142 | Received 20 Sep 2007, Accepted 27 Mar 2008, Published online: 13 May 2009

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/02646830802350831

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

Objectives: Research has shown that between 1 and 3% of women may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following childbirth. However, the potential effect of childbirth on fathers, and the implications of post-natal symptoms of PTSD for family relationships, have received little attention. The current study therefore examined the potential effects of PTSD symptoms on the couple's relationship and parent–baby bond.

Design: Internet-based questionnaire study.

Methods: One hundred and fifty-two parents (126 women and 26 men) completed questionnaire measures of PTSD, depression, quality of the couple's relationship, and the parent–baby bond.

Results: Symptoms of PTSD and depression were significantly correlated with the couples' relationship and parent–baby bond. Structural equation modelling found the model that best fitted the data was one where PTSD symptoms had a direct effect on the parent–baby bond, but the effect of PTSD on the couples' relationship was mediated by depression.

Conclusions: The results indicate the importance of examining the psychological reactions of men and women after birth; and suggest that symptoms of PTSD have an effect on the parent–baby bond. However, methodological considerations mean further research is needed to replicate and extend this study before firm conclusions can be drawn.

Keywords:

childbirth | post-natal depression | PTSD | parent–baby bond | couple's relationship

Related Research Data

Detection of Postnatal Depression
Source: The British Journal of Psychiatry
Stability and Change in Marriage across the Transition to Parenthood: A Second Study
Source: Journal of Marriage and Family
Prospective Study of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Depression Following Trauma
Source: American Journal of Psychiatry
Measuring Dyadic Adjustment: New Scales for Assessing the Quality of Marriage and Similar Dyads
Source: Journal of Marriage and Family
Prevalence and predictors of post-traumatic stress symptoms following childbirth
Source: British Journal of Clinical Psychology
Parents' attachment histories and children's externalizing and internalizing behaviors: Exploring family systems models of linkage.
Source: Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
Posttraumatic stress following childbirth: A review

Related research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by 170

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

Susan Ayers et al.
Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology
Published online: 1 Feb 2007

The impact of childbirth-related post-traumatic stress on a couple's relationship: a systematic review and meta-synthesis >

A. Delicate et al.
Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology
Published online: 10 Nov 2017

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

Taylor & Francis by informa