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A prospective study of the parent-baby bond in men and women 15 months after birth

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Abstract

Objective: To prospectively examine the impact of parental mental health (PTSD,

depression, anxiety, and postnatal depression) on the parent-baby bond and/or lower quality of parenting. Methods: A prospective study of 75 women and 75 men, 3 and 15 months postpartum, the impact of parental mental health on the parent-baby bond and/or lower quality of parenting. Results: The most important findings were that both men and women with mental health problems had a negative impact on the parent-baby bond and/or lower quality of parenting. Conclusions: The findings suggest that parental mental health is an important factor in the parent-baby bond and/or lower quality of parenting. The findings also suggest that parental mental health is an important factor in the parent-baby bond and/or lower quality of parenting.

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parent-baby bond at 3 months, only concurrent infant temperament remained a significant predictor for women. However, men’s bond with their baby at 15 months was predicted by their relationship with their partner in pregnancy and concurrent affective symptoms. Few significant gender differences were found, apart from women reporting more mental health symptoms than men. Conclusion: This study highlights the significance of the couple’s relationship in pregnancy and the infant’s temperament on the development of the parent-baby bond. Future research is needed to examine this in larger more representative samples.

Keywords: parent-baby bond mental health longitudinal father(s) mother(s)

Additional information

Funding

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