

Chapter 9

MOTHER - INFANT ATTACHMENT: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy, birth and postpartum period are psychological, physiological and emotional changes. Particularly, postpartum and neonatal period are of special importance as they require physiological, emotional and social adaptation for the mother, baby and family (Rabby, Dowce & Bennet, 2008; Yıldız, 2008). It is stated that mothers feel comfortable when they are actively involved in the care of their babies and are successful in maintaining their care, which have a positive impact on their physical and mental health, newborn health status and maternal-infant attachment process (Koyun, Taskın & Terzioglu, 2011; Can, Ege, Akın & Kocoglu, 2010; Aktas, 2008; Yıldız, 2008).

The concept of bonding is very broad. The mother's emotional attachment to her child is called "bonding", and the emotional attachment of the child towards her mother is covered by the words "attachment" (Akkoca, 2009). Attachment is defined as a permanent bond of love between the child and the family during the first year of life (Nichols & Zwaling, 1997). According to Mercer and Ferketich, maternal attachment is the process of formation of a love bond that the mother developed to her child as a result of a satisfactory and pleasant interaction between mother and child (Mercer & Ferketich, 1994).

In the process of mother-infant attachment, early motherhood attitudes and evaluation of mother's emotions are important (Moehler & et al.,2006). Attachment affects not only infancy, but also childhood, adolescence and adulthood. In the literature, it was stated that the bond between mother and baby affects the future health of the baby and is important in its development. (Ustunsoz & et al., 2010). When the results of the studies on the quality of the attachment relationship are examined, it is seen that the children who develop secure attachment have higher social skills than their peers and their positive affect is higher than

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The effect of the congenital anomaly or chronic disease of baby on mother-infant attachment

In addition to maternal factors, infant-related factors may interfere with the development of the bond between the mother and the baby. (Sung & Kim, 2005; Sullivan & et al. 2011; Kose, Cınar & Altınkaynak, 2013). In study of Acar et al, it is discussed case of an infant hospitalized and treated first in neonatal; and then in pediatric intensive care unit with the diagnoses of holoprosencephaly, cleft lip and palate, nasal agenesis, diabetes insipidus based on the literature Acar, Gunay & Guner, 2018). Acar et al, (2018) In an experimental study evaluating maternal-infant attachment, mothers having babies with congenital anomalies were found to have lower levels of attachment than mothers with healthy babies (Boztepe & et al., 2016).

In a study, it was discussed the baby with congenital defects who initially responded only to light stimuli, not make eye contact and not recognize external stimuli. As a result of her mother staying close to her and taking care at home, it was observed that she got a high score on the development scale one month after discharge (Soysal, Ergenekon, & Aksoy, 1999). According to the results of the study, it should be kept in mind that the baby has a congenital anomaly, that the baby is premature, having serious health problems may make it difficult to attach by changing the maternity role.

Conclusions

Mother-infant attachment a between mother and baby affects the future health of the baby and is important in its development. There are various factors regarding mother-infant attachment based on mother and infants. As a result, health professionals should aim to improve maternal and childhood attachment by taking into account the factors of the infant and mothers.

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