E3-16: Mi Chiquito (My Little One): Mothers of Mexican heritage in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

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Abstract Categories:
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Abstract:
Introduction: Each year in the United States, 10-15% of infants will require treatment in a neonatal intensive care unit. Reasons for admission to a NICU vary and include prematurity, infection, and birth defects. Such an event can cause significant stress for parents and researchers have discovered that due to this stress, families may have long-term difficulty adapting. To date, most of the existing studies have included primarily Caucasian mothers with little known about the needs of mothers of Mexican heritage. This is concerning because fertility rates among these women are consistently the highest for all women in the United States. While actual prevalence rates for NICU admissions for this population are not readily available, in 2009 at a tertiary hospital in south Texas, Hispanic neonates represented greater than 90% of the NICU residents. Therefore, the lack of research including mothers of Mexican heritage represents a significant gap in nursing knowledge that may affect nursing care for these infants and their families.

Method(s): The purpose of this investigation is to discover a framework or theory that explains the social processes used by women of Mexican heritage who have experienced the admission of an infant to the NICU. To accomplish this purpose, grounded theory methodology will be utilized. Participants will include mothers of Mexican heritage between 18 and 45 years of age who have or have had an infant in the NICU within the past 5 years. Data collection will begin during the Fall of 2009 after obtaining Institutional Review Board approval at the University of Texas at Austin. Audio-taped, semi-structured, individual interviews will be conducted and transcribed verbatim.

Results: The data will be analyzed using the constant comparison method as described by Strauss and Corbin (1998).
**Discussion & Conclusions:** To follow.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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