P1-49: Perceived Maternal Competence and Psychosocial Adaptation: Difference between Primiparous and Multiparous Mothers in Taiwan

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Abstract:
Introduction: Becoming a mother is an interactional and developmental process that is influenced by a person’s culture and social context. Primiparas and multiparas have different trajectories of maternal competence and different postpartum adaptations. In addition, there are limited studies about maternal competence and mothers’ adaptation in Taiwan. The purposes of this study are to examine the differences of perceived maternal competence and psychosocial adaptation for 8 months following childbirth between primiparous and multiparous mothers in Taiwan.

Method(s): A comparative, longitudinal design was used. A convenience sample was recruited at postpartum hospitalization and followed-up on at 1, 4, and 8 months after giving birth. Data were collected through structured questionnaires: Parenting Sense of Competence Scale, Maternal Confidence Questionnaires, Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale, Sense of Mastery Scale, the Perceived Stress Scale, Inventory of Socially Supportive Behaviors, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, and Demographic Data Form. Data was analyzed by using repeated measured ANOVA. Statistic power is 0.90.

Results: Sample included 78 primiparas and 49 multiparas and their average age were 28.0 and 29.7, respectively. Multiparous mothers had higher maternal competence and maternal confidence than primiparous mothers across the first 8 months postpartum (F=11.480, P=.001). Maternal competences in both primiparous and multiparous mothers were shown to increase over time until 4 months postpartum and then slightly decrease by 8 months postpartum. Primiparous mothers perceived higher social support than multiparous mothers across the first 8 months postpartum (F=6.979, P=.01). However, there were no significant differences in trajectory of self-esteem, sense of control, and marital relationship between multiparous and primiparous mothers. Maternal confidence and perceived stress were major predictors of maternal competence for both primiparous and multiparous mothers.

Discussion & Conclusions: The first 4 months after giving birth are the most important for maternal role achievement. Developing interventions to decrease perceived stress and increase maternal confidence are suggested for both multiparous and primiparous mothers in future studies and postpartum health care.

Abstract History:
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