

The aims of this study were (1) to investigate whether mothers' and fathers' anxiety - assessed at 6 month of pregnancy (T1) and at 3 months postpartum (T2) - was linked with difficult infant's temperament and (2) to investigate gender differences.

Method: The sample comprised 92 mothers ($M_{Age} = 34.7$ years, $SD = 4.8$) and fathers ($M_{Age} = 36.8$ years, $SD = 4.7$), and their 3 months old 46 infants. At T1, mothers and fathers independently filled out the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI, *Spielberger, 1983*). At T2, mothers and fathers completed the STAI and the Infant Behavior Questionnaire (IBQ-R, Gartstein & Rothbart, 2003).

Results: Mothers and fathers did not differ significantly as regards the presence and stability of anxiety at T1 and T2. With respect to mothers, a significant correlation between perinatal anxiety and infant's sadness and difficult behavior emerged. Fathers' higher perinatal anxiety scores correlated significantly with infant's fear, distress to limits and falling reactivity. Both mothers and fathers attributed higher scores to boys compared to girls on all three IBQ-R subscales: Surgency/Extraversion, Negative affectivity and Orienting/Regulatory Capacity.

Conclusions: Infants of anxious mothers and fathers were perceived as more difficult. Both mothers and fathers would perceive their baby boys' temperament as more difficult than their baby girls'. These findings are consistent with previous research and highlight the relevance of screening both maternal and paternal anxiety to improve child's regulation.

Maternal perinatal depression: heterogeneity and multiple trajectories across time

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Abstract

Introduction: Perinatal depression has been widely studied since many years, with lot of evidence about its prevalence, risk factors and consequences for child development (Goodman, 2019). Compared to the past scientific literature characterizing past years (2000-2010) and emphasizing the existence of “a perinatal depression”, recent empirical evidence recognizes the existence of “many perinatal depressions” and suggests the need to better identify the heterogeneity of depressive symptoms (Baron et al., 2017; Boekhorst et al., 2019). The study aims, therefore, at confirming the existence of multiple trajectories in the perinatal period.

Methods: A literature search was realized among the main databases in the last 4 years (2015-2019), using the keywords: *perinatal depression, perinatal depressive symptoms, mothers, women,*

trajectories, course, longitudinal. No specific systematic or meta-analyses reviews were conducted. Relevant articles were selected, based on the content, sample size and statistical analyses. Besides, specific data on perinatal depression trajectories from the authors' studies were selected for the aims of this study.

Results: Ten selected articles showed the possibility to recognize at least 3 different trajectories (women always depressed; women depressed at onset, but then recovering; women getting depressed only later) of depression across the postnatal period, up to 24 months. Main results from the authors' studies also confirmed multiple trajectories for depressive symptoms in a time range of 12 postpartum months, both for mothers of full-term and preterm babies.

Conclusions: Consistent findings emerge on the existence of different and evident trajectories regarding the course of depressive symptoms in mothers, at least across the first postnatal year. Despite this, a huge part of the literature on perinatal psychopathology still neglects this evidence, with the risk of underestimating the impact of the chronicity of depression on infant outcomes.

UPGRADING THE RORSCHACH: RESEARCH AND ADVANCES (4th EDITION)

Proposer

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Abstract

This symposium aims at providing a fourth update (the first one occurred in Rome in 2016, at the XVIII AIP conference) on the state of the art of Rorschach-based research in Italy. Ales and Giromini start off this session by presenting some data ($n = 71$) from an eye tracking study focused on eye movement differences between different types of white space responses. Aschieri then presents a single-case study addressing the use of the Rorschach, in the context of the Therapeutic Assessment paradigm, to assess psychological difficulties and promote human and spiritual growth in Catholic priests. Cenci and Delvecchio then discuss a multi-method approach involving the use of the Rorschach to conduct psychological assessment in developmental age, also via a single-case study. Finally, Porcelli