Results from the Bordeaux's MBU database

Risk factors for maternal mixed states and request of placement of the baby at discharge

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Objectives:

MBUs host very vulnerable mothers and infants, requiring specific joint care, taking into account the specificities of mood dysregulation. The objectives of the present research carried out in a population of dyads jointly admitted in a MBU were to explore the factors independently associated with (i) maternal mixed states (ii) request of placement of the baby at discharge.

Methods:

Data on mothers and babies (n =146) were retrospectively collected from medical records of dyads jointly admitted in the MBUs of the University Department of Adult Psychiatry, Bordeaux, France. Multivariate logistic regressions were used to explore which demographic and perinatal variables were independently associated with (i) a mixed mood state in the mother (ii) the request for a placement of the infant at discharge.

Results:

About 30% of the mothers presented a mixed episode whose occurrence was significantly higher in women with history of unipolar depression (OR=6.8, 95%CI952.0-22.6), higher socio-professional status (OR=4.0, CI95%=1.4-11,5) and pregnancy onset of the current episode (OR=2.9, CI95%=1-8,3).

A mother-infant separation was advocated by the team for about 25% of the dyads. Maternal diagnosis of psychotic disorder (OR=6,3, Cl95%=1,6-24,1), personality disorders and/or addiction (OR=5,1, Cl95%=1,1-22,8), young age at first hospitalization (OR=0,9, Cl95%=0,8-0,9) and placement history in siblings (OR=4,2, Cl95%=1,1-16,5) were independently associated with a higher risk for a request of separation at discharge.

Conclusion:

One out of three mothers hospitalized in Bordeaux's MBU presented a mixed episode of mood disorder, underlying the need for universal antenatal maternal mental health screening. Mothers with a separation from the child proposed at discharge presented with the most severe disorders but also with specific "parenthood disorders", independently from psychiatric diagnosis.

Key words: Mother and baby units, mixed mood episode, infant placement

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