Paternal depression during pregnancy and its effect on the relationships of couples and children’s health: a review study

Zohreh Shahhosseini1,*, Ozra Barooj Kiakalayee2, Seyed Hamzeh Hosseini3, Zahra Esmaeili Douki4, Reza Ali Mohammadpour Thamtan5

1. Associate Professor of Reproductive Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health Research, Nasibeh Nursing And Midwifery Faculty, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran.
2. M.Sc. Student of Midwifery Counseling, Student Research Committee, Nasibeh Nursing and Midwifery Faculty, Mazandaran University Of Medical Science, Sari, Iran.
3. Professor of Psychiatry, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Research Center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran.
4. Assistant Professor of Research-Based, Nasibeh Nursing and Midwifery Faculty, Mazandaran University of Medical Science, Sari, Iran.
5. Associate Professor, Biostatistics Health Sciences research center, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Sari, Iran.

* Corresponding Author: E-mail: Zshahhosseini@Yahoo.Com.

(Received 11 July 2018; Accepted 21 September 2018)

Abstract

Paternal depression during pregnancy causes increased incidence of psychiatric disorders, anxiety disorders, and impaired development of the child. Thus, considering the importance of psychological health of fathers in the psychological health of children, this study was conducted with the aim of examining the effect of paternal depression during pregnancy on the couple’s relationships and children’s health.

In this narrative review, firstly, the related keywords was identified with using mesh (medical subject headings) and then search was carried out in electronic databases including google scholar and more specifically in Magiran, SID, Pubmed, Web of Science, Scopus, Ovid, Science Direct And ProQuest. The keywords: depression, depression in pregnancy, father, child, mental health. The published related articles were extracted from 1983 till 2018. Overall 95 articles have been searched. Researchers reviewed the title and abstracts of all articles searched, 25 articles are excluded due to non-relevance and ultimately they applied 70 studies to compile this review.

The results of our study culminated in organization of findings into two classes: class I: the effect of paternal depression on couple’s relationships including anger and interpersonal conflicts of couples, increased risk of maladaptation and negative feelings in marital relationships, the couple’s over-criticism of each other, emotional-psychological disorders of couples, and risk of infanticide; class II: the effect of paternal depression on children’s health including increased stress and anxiety in the child, mood problems in the child, behavioral problems especially in boys, antisocial behaviors of the child, restlessness and hyperactivity, and emotional-psychological disorders of the child.

Given the negative effects of paternal depression during pregnancy, necessary trainings should be presented to families about identification of depressed fathers during pregnancy by healthcare staff, so that with timely diagnosis and treatment, one can mitigate the consequences of this disorder on the family and child, thereby improving the couple’s relationships and quality of life.

Keywords: Depression, Depression in Pregnancy, Father, Child, Mental Health.
چکیده
افسردگی پدران در دوران بارداری باعث افزایش اختلالات روانی و افکاری، افکار عاطفی و از افسردگی روندهای تأثیرگذار در روابط زوجین می‌شود. اولین مطالعه مروری این مطالعات در این زمینه به‌منظور آشنایی با تأثیر کوتاهی و طولانی افسردگی پدران در دوران بارداری پرداخته شد. این مطالعه به‌منظور افزایش توجه به افسردگی پدران در دوران بارداری، بهبود کیفیت روابط زوجین و بهبود سلامت کودکان، استفاده شد.

واژه‌های کلیدی: افسردگی، افسردگی دوران بارداری، پدران، کودک، سلامت روان.