

Experiences of prematurity: has the acceptance of the real child assumed the deconstruction of the imaginary baby?

Abstract

The research aims to understand the emotional mother-baby bond considering the situation of prematurity. The study included the assessment of four mothers, who for some complication in pregnancy had a premature delivery, being their babies hospitalized in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital São Vicente de Paulo. It is a comprehensive and qualitative study. Data collection occurred through a semi directed interview and the reports were analyzed using the method of Content Analysis. Through the verbalizations we can conclude that prematurity tends to interfere with the construction of the mother-infant bond because the hospitalization of a premature child disrupts the family dynamics. The approach and the construction of the bond happens gradually, consistent with the clinical picture of the baby. To ensure that the bond is satisfactorily established a multi-professional team support seems fundamental and therefore we should invest in the training for the humanized care professionals.

Key-words: Neonatal ICU; Prematurity; Bond.