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The predictors of health status of premature infant's mothers

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Medicine technology advances, continuous improvement of caring skills, and the implementation of a national health insurance payment system have increased access to health care services and the survival rate of premature infants. However, these outcomes have not improved premature infants' mothers' stress and the parent-child relationship. Thus this study employed a cross-sectional design. With convenience sampling, a total of 203 mothers of premature infants were recruited from two medical centers and four community teaching hospitals in southern Taiwan. The Hung Postpartum Stress Scale, Social Support Scale, Beck Depression Inventory, and Chinese Health Questionnaire were used to assess the mothers' psychosocial features during the first six weeks postpartum. Mothers' health status differed significantly according to levels of postpartum stress and depression. The important health status predictors were age, education, postpartum stress, and depression level. The concerns and needs of mothers of premature infants differed from those of full-term mothers during the first six weeks postpartum; premature infants' health status was found to be a major perceived stressor for their mothers. In addition to age and education level, postpartum stress and depression levels predicted health status in mothers of premature infants. Health care providers should evaluate the postpartum concerns and needs of mothers of premature infants and provide timely care to reduce their postpartum stress and depression levels, thereby promoting postpartum health. Future studies should explore postpartum stress, social support, depression, and health status each postpartum week, which could serve as a reference for nursing interventions.

Global pediatric nursing educator innovations

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This presentation is focused on ethnographic study of the experience of the author being a Nursing Fulbright Scholar travelling to a different country and culture, particularly within a higher education and healthcare setting and focusing on nursing students learning in nursing care of children and families course. The presentation has two main purposes. First, it will discuss the benefits and the experiences of being a Fulbright scholar in the Middle East in higher education, in healthcare, and doing outreach in the community. Second, it will share observations relevant to teaching and research experiences in pediatric nursing and nursing education, including perceived barriers, international and intercultural issues. The field work for this project was substantially based at Bethlehem University (BU) in Bethlehem, and included visits to Augusta Victoria Hospital (Jerusalem), University of Jordan (Amman), Jordan University of Science and Technology (Irbid). Research methodology was based on the Observation-Participation-Reflection model, an ethnographic approach. Initial emergent themes included the importance of personal contact with nursing faculty and nursing students globally, and the importance of understanding the health, family dynamics culture and language of families and their children globally. Nursing faculty impact the health of the children and their families through education, research and health promotion.