



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



MONA MAGHRABY



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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



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جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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MONA MAGHRABY

Assessment of Mothers' Interpretation and Care of their Infants' Crying

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master
Degree in **Pediatric Nursing***

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Abstract

Assessment of Mothers' Interpretation and Care of their Infants' Crying

Background: Infants' crying plays an important role in ensuring the survival, health, and development of the child. **Aim:** This study aims to assess mothers' interpretation and care of their infants' crying. **Design:** A descriptive research design was used. **Setting:** The study was carried out at Ash-moon Health Office in Menofia Governorate. **Subjects:** A purposive sample of 200 mothers from the previously mentioned setting over a six months period. **Tools:** Two tools were used; A structured interview questionnaire to assess the studied mothers' knowledge regarding interpretation of their infants' crying and observational checklists to assess the reported mothers' practice regarding care of their infants' crying. **Results:** There was highly statistically significance difference between the studied mothers' knowledge, mothers 'age and educational level. There was statistically significance difference between the studied mothers' reported practice and educational level. There was positive correlation between mothers' total knowledge and their total reported practices regarding interpretation and care of their infants' crying. **Conclusion:** Almost three quarters of the studied mothers had poor total knowledge and inadequate total reported practice regarding the interpretation and care of their infants' crying. **Recommendations:** Educate mothers to improve their knowledge about interpretation and care of their infants' crying.

Key words: *Infant, Crying, Mothers, Knowledge, Interpretation, Care, Nursing.*

Introduction

Infancy is the period from one month to the end of the first year of life. Most healthy infants and children grow in a predictable fashion, following a typical pattern of progression in weight, length, and head circumference (*Miller-Kean, 2016*).

Infant crying is a response to an internal or external stimulus and considered as a form of basic instinctive communication (*Chittora & Patil, 2017*). Crying is a very powerful signal for attention and the main way that infants communicate distress. Even if the causes of infants' crying are unknown, mothers' consistent and genuine response is part of building a relationship with their infants and promotes their growth and development. Therefore if an infant cries a lot or a little, it is important for mother to respond quickly and consistently (*Dayton et al., 2015*).

A peak for the majority of infants' crying begins usually at 6–8 weeks, with an average duration of 2-3 hours per day, and largely subsides by 4 months. Persistent crying occurs in up to 20% of infants, only 10% of those infants may have an organic cause for crying. Organic causes may include cow milk protein allergy, gastro-esophageal reflux or lactose intolerance. Nonorganic causes may include tiredness,

hunger, dirty diaper, over stimulation or an inability to self soothe due to delayed neuromaturation (**Carnes *et al.*, 2018**).

Interpretation of infants' crying is an excellent way to respond faster to infants' needs and stop the crying. This is considered fairly easy when known what to listen for. The interpretation of infants' crying behavior may be affected by maternal depression and psychological state. When these occur together, maternal depression and excessive crying may affect parent-infant interactions, relationships and even infant outcomes (**Chen *et al.*, 2019**).

The best way to handle infants' crying is to respond promptly to their crying. Mothers cannot spoil their infants by giving an attention. When responding to infants' crying, try to meet most basic needs first. If the infant is cold and hungry or diaper is wet, the mother should warm the infant, change wet diaper, and then feed the infant. If there's a shrieking or panicked quality to the cry, consider the possibility that a piece of clothing or something else is making uncomfortable. Perhaps a strand of hair is caught around a finger or toe (**Johnson *et al.*, 2015**).

The ability of pediatric nurses to detect crying types and use appropriate comforting technique seems to be very important, not only for the infants' comforting but also in