

Modeling parents and nurses' relationships

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Référence complète de l'étude

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Préliminaire et cadre théorique Méthodologie de l'étude Principaux résultats

As predicted, nurses' collaborative practices with multiparous parents were related positively to help-giving practices, perceived control, and perceptions of events, which were then related to increased perceived parental efficacy. *The authors* had not hypothesized a direct relationship between collaborative practices and perceived parental efficacy because previous studies had not found any such relationship (de Montigny et al., 2006a, Lacharité et al., 2005). Although there was a significant bivariate relationship between these two constructs, no modification indices indicated the need to add a path between collaborative practices and perceived parental efficacy. In *this study's* sample, nurses' collaborative practices contribute indirectly to perceived parental efficacy via postpartum events. The pattern of these results suggests that the quality of the postpartum events may mediate the relationship between collaborative practices and perceived parental efficacy, indicating the pivotal nature of the events occurring during the first 48 hours of an infant's life in the hospital in both fathers' and mothers' development of perceived efficacy as parents.

A previous study modeling first-time parents' experience of the nurse–parent relationship in the postpartum period highlighted the importance of postpartum events (de Montigny et al., 2006a). In de Montigny et al.'s (2006a) study, the quality of postpartum events affected directly and inversely parents' anxiety (measured, in this case, with Spielberger's [1983] instrument) such that negative events increased anxiety and positive events decreased anxiety. In a context where hospital stays are reduced in length and where nurses' attention is often mother centered (de Montigny & Lacharité, 2004; Ménard, 1999), attention needs to be paid to the quality of the postpartum experience for both parents. Events related to the physical and emotional changes during the postpartum period, such as fatigue, are significant for both parents. As well, events related to parental and conjugal functioning, such as responding to the infant's needs and maintaining intimacy with one's partner, were found to have an impact on parents' experiences. Finally, events related to nurses and the hospital environment, such as exchanging information and receiving feedback from nurses, are also reported by both parents (de Montigny & Lacharité, 2004).

Besoins identifiés

This study's findings, that nurses' collaborative practices are related to the quality of postpartum events that may mediate parents' stress and perceived efficacy, indicate that nurses' attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs influence parenting development. As such, it is relevant for nursing education

and practice to educate nurses to develop collaborative practices with parents, based on mutual sharing of expertise. For nurses, this means adopting practices that recognize the importance of both parents' experience, by addressing themselves to fathers and to mothers. The marital relationship and the parent–infant relationship need to be supported by reinforcing individual and family strengths, for example. Involving parents in decision making and respecting their rhythm will allow parents to develop a sense of efficacy. As parents develop their abilities to make decisions regarding their health, that of their infant, or that of the family, with the support of collaborative nurses, the postpartum environment will become truly family friendly.

Population cible

Parents d'un deuxième enfant (Pères et mères).

Objectifs et hypothèses

The purpose of this study was to examine the extent to which a theoretical model of parenting development through nurse–parent relationships was explained by data collected from a community sample of 104 mothers and 87 fathers of a second or third child ($M = 22$ days, $SD = 5$) postpartum. *The authors* hypothesized, as shown in the theoretical model, that there is a direct, positive relation between the quality of the nurse–parent collaboration and the quality of the help-giving practices and perceived control; there is a direct, positive relation between the quality of the help-giving practices and the quality of events during the postpartum period; and there is an indirect, positive relationship between the nurses' help-giving practices and critical events during the immediate postpartum period and parents' perceived efficacy, such that when events are positive, parents will be less stressed and report higher parental efficacy.

Mots-clés Infirmières, modèles parentaux, relations, enfants, Pères, mères

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