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The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing®

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Palliative Care in the NICU

Infant Tongue-Tie and
Maternal Wellbeing

Posttraumatic Growth
after Death of a Child


Women's Experiences with
Substance Use Disorder

Antenatal Milk Expression

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Childbearing Experiences
During the COVID-19
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Cotinine in Maternal Saliva
During and After Pregnancy

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feature articles

250 Neonatal Nurses' Perceptions of Palliative Care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



Guidelines for neonatal palliative care have existed for over 20 years, yet less than 4% of children who meet criteria for palliative care receive these services. Neonatal intensive care unit nurses are uniquely positioned to influence end-of-life care for infants and their families' experiences. N = 200 neonatal intensive care nurses in the United States participated in a survey about neonatal palliative care. Nurses who work in a unit with a neonatal palliative care policy and who have received palliative care education demonstrated more favorable attitudes toward neonatal palliative care. Policy and educational programs are important strategies to promote high-quality care for high-risk infants and their families.

Susan Di Nonno Chin, PhD, RN, NNP-BC, Ann Marie Paraszcuk, EdD, RNC-NIC, IBCLC, Patricia Eckardt, PhD, RN, FAAN, Toby Bressler, PhD, RN, OCN, FAAN

258 Relationship Between Infant Tongue-Tie and Maternal Wellbeing

Tongue-tie is a mild oral anomaly that can cause feeding challenges, especially for breastfeeding mothers and infants. Delayed diagnosis may increase risk of maternal stress and impaired mother-infant bonding when feeding does not go as planned. Findings from this study of 113 mothers of infants with tongue-tie included importance of its early assessment, diagnosis, and management. Partner support is helpful in fostering the mother-infant relationship. More research is needed to understand barriers to appropriate referrals and to delay in treatment of tongue-tie.

Rebecca R. Hill, DNP, FNP-C, John Wong, PhD, Gayatri S. Parikh, RN

264 Posttraumatic Growth in Women who have Experienced Loss of a Child

Using posttraumatic growth as a framework, researchers in this qualitative study of 11 women who experienced the death of a child or grandchild, identified seven common themes. The women were forever changed by the death of the child and appreciated compassion and support from health care professionals, friends, and family members. These data highlight the uniqueness of every loss and the needs of each person experiencing the loss. Findings emphasize the importance of listening to women and being receptive to posttraumatic growth.

Mary Ellen Doherty PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM, Elizabeth Scannell-Desch PhD, RN, FAAN

271 Pregnant and Parenting Women's Experiences with Substance Use Disorder

Ten pregnant women and new mothers shared their experiences with substance use disorder via interviews in this qualitative study. Common themes include occurrence of prior trauma, multiple substances used, stigma and judgment from others, and having children as a motivation to seeking recovery. Suggestions for supportive care for women with substance use disorder are offered based on participants' experiences.

Mary Ellen Wright, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, Heide S. Temples, PhD, APRN, PPCNP-BC, IBCLC, Emily Shores, BS, Olivia Chafe, Rebekkah Lannamann, BSN, RN, Carla Lautenschlager, BS

277 Mothers' Experiences with Antenatal Milk Expression



Antenatal milk expression may be a way to avoid formula supplementation for infants with hypoglycemia after birth, but more data are needed on efficacy, safety, and outcomes for mothers and babies. In this study women who practiced antenatal milk expression share their rationale and experiences.

Nina A. Juntereal, BSN, RN, Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN

284 Narrative Analysis of Childbearing Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic



The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted health care delivery and services around the world causing rapid and constant changes to maternity care protocols and pregnant women to give birth with restrictions and significant uncertainties. In this study, mothers' birth stories during the pandemic that were posted to YouTube were analyzed. Rich detailed description of women's lived experience with giving birth during the COVID-19 pandemic are presented along with suggestions for nurses to minimize the stress of the vagueness and ambiguity of hospital restrictive practices during the childbirth process in the context of the pandemic.

Kobi V. Ajayi, MPH, MBA, Idethia S. Harvey, DrPH, MPH, Sonya Panjwani, MPH, Inyang Uwak, DrPH, MPH, MBBS, Whitney Garney, PhD, MPH, Robin L. Page, PhD, APRN, CNM

293 Cotinine Fluctuation in Maternal Saliva During and After Pregnancy: Implications for Perinatal Outcomes

Smoking during pregnancy and postpartum can have a significant negative effect on mothers and babies. In this study, maternal cotinine (a byproduct of nicotine) levels in saliva at the first and third trimesters of pregnancy and postpartum among women who reported smoking a consistent number of cigarettes were studied. Findings support accelerated nicotine metabolism during pregnancy and need for smoking cessation efforts throughout pregnancy to help women stay smoke free at postpartum.

Seok Hyun Gwon, PhD, RN, Suyong Jeong, PhD, RN, Linda Bullock, PhD, RN, FAAN

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The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing®

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 • VOLUME 46/NUMBER 5

ongoing columns

249 EDITORIAL

Racism in Maternity Care is a Public Health Crisis in the United States

There is ample evidence that racism is a public health crisis in the United States. In maternity care, racism as a factor in maternal morbidity and mortality is highlighted in the significant disparities in outcomes when comparing women of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. The National Center for Health Statistics reported over 750 women in the United States died of maternal causes in 2019. Deaths are higher among women in minoritized groups, identified by the National Vital Statistics System as non-Hispanic Black women. Recent evidence about maternal mortality and reports suggesting ways to improve maternity care in the United States are reviewed.

Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, FAAN

299 HOT TOPICS IN MATERNITY NURSING

Conducting OB Simulation During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Conducting simulations in the hospital setting has been challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic due to safety restrictions to minimize risk of viral transmission and due to perinatal health care workers, such as nurses, midwives, and obstetricians needed in direct care, with little to no time for educational activities. Our guest columnist, Dr. DiCioccio, a perinatal nursing professional development specialist, covers alternatives to in-person OB simulation that are designed to meet The Joint Commission standards for maternal safety.

Heather Condo DiCioccio, DNP, RNC-MNN, C-ONQ

300 HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

Pediatric Pain Remains Under-Treated

Pain relief measures are not always used for all babies and children as necessary. Our pediatric nursing expert, Dr. Beal, explains recent evidence and current practices, then offers suggestions for neonatal and pediatric nurses to make sure pain is treated in a timely and appropriate manner in all clinical settings.

Judy A. Beal, DNSc, RN, FAAN

301 BREASTFEEDING

Improving Lactation Education and Support in Primary Care

Nurses in pediatric and primary care practices that offer well-baby outpatient visits must know about the technical aspects of breastfeeding, the science of human milk and the physiology of lactation so they can support breastfeeding families to reach their personal breastfeeding goals. Our breastfeeding expert, Dr. Spatz, offers suggestions for incorporating lactation care into pediatric and primary care practices.

Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN

302 GLOBAL HEALTH AND NURSING

Supporting Guatemalan Comadronas

The WHO Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery was published by the World Health Organization for review April 1, 2021, with comments invited. It focuses on four strategic directions for nurses and midwives around the world: education, leadership, jobs, and service delivery. Our global health and nursing expert, Dr. Callister, explains the World Health Organization's strategic plans in the context of an ongoing program in Guatemala that is supporting village midwives.

Lynn Clark Callister, PhD, RN, FAAN

304 TOWARD EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

Experts suggest how 6 research articles can be used in nursing practice.

Coordinated by Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, NNP-BC, CPNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN

Comments by Eileen T. Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN, Anisa A. Ogboenyi, PhD, RN, Kristi K. Westphal, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC

307 PERINATAL PATIENT SAFETY

Accurate Respiratory Rate Assessment for Women in Labor

Respiratory rate assessment for women in labor is not always accurate or consistent. Our guest columnist, Samantha Bernstein, a perinatal patient safety expert, presents a summary of the evidence on why respiratory rate data are vital to maternal and fetal wellbeing during labor and offers suggestions for improving practice.

Samantha L. Bernstein, MSN, RNC-OB, IBCLC

MISSION STATEMENT

MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing, is written for nurses who are involved in various aspects of maternal and child nursing. MCN provides clinical and research articles to support nurses in practice that are based on the most recent and rigorous evidence. This peer-reviewed journal offers integrated clinical practice information and thought-provoking solutions for all aspects of maternal child care in the inpatient, outpatient and home care settings.

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