

Eine Studie aus der Türkei

### **Association of prenatal attachment and infant outcomes at around two years of age.**

Cildir Argüz D., Ozbek A., Topuzoglu A., Orcin E., Janbakhishov Evcen C.  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Dokuz Eylul University Medical Faculty,  
İzmir, Turkey; Psychiatry, Dokuz Eylul University Medical Faculty, İzmir,  
Turkey

erforschte den Zusammenhang zwischen vorgeburtlicher Bindung und der Länge der Stillzeit, der Entwicklung, dem emotionalen und sozialen Wohlbefinden bei 142 Kindern von 21 bis 31 Monaten. Je besser die Bindung der Mutter zwischen der 28 und 40. Woche zu ihrem Fötus war, um so besser war die Entwicklung und die emotionale und soziale Kompetenz der Kleinkinder. Auf die Länge der Stillzeit hatte die vorgeburtliche Bindung keinen signifikanten Effekt.

#### Introduction:

Recent studies have reported associations between postnatal attachment and developmental, behavioral and emotional outcomes but the effects of prenatal attachment on development and emotional well being at infancy and early childhood are not as widely studied.

#### Aim:

This cohort study assess the effects of prenatal attachment on the duration of breastfeeding, development, social-emotional well being during early childhood along with effects on parental attitudes.

#### Subjects and Method:

Participants were 142 mothers and their infants aged between 21-31 months (mean±SD=25.6±2.32 months). Along with sociodemographic data form, Parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI) were applied to mothers, whose prenatal attachment at 28-40 week gestation have been assessed using Prenatal Attachment Inventory (PAI). Brief Infant and Toddler

Social Emotional Assessment (BITSEA) and Ankara Development Screening Inventory (AGTE) were applied to the participating children.

#### Results:

Infants of the mothers who had higher levels of prenatal attachment had higher total development levels measured by AGTE and higher competence levels measured by BITSEA at the age of 21-31 months ( $p=0.004$  and  $p=0.025$ , respectively). Infants with developmental delay had significantly lower prenatal attachment scores ( $p=0.004$ ). Multiple regression analysis revealed prenatal attachment quality significantly predicted better developmental levels, emotional and social competency in infants at the age of 21-31 months ( $\beta=0.289$ ,  $p=0.002$  and  $\beta=0.081$ ,  $p=0.014$ , respectively). Duration of breastfeeding was not significantly associated with prenatal attachment scores.

#### Conclusion:

Infants of mothers, who have been highly attached to their fetus during the prenatal period, had increased emotional, behavioral competence and better developmental outcome around 2 years of age. Enhancement of

prenatal attachment may be promising for better developmental outcomes and emotional competency for the infants.