

3rd World Congress on

MIDWIFERY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

November 13-14, 2017 | London, UK

Influence of elective and emergency cesarean delivery on mother emotions and bonding

Francesca Volpe

Policlinico Abano Terme, Italy

Introduction: Previous studies indicated that mode of delivery could have a negative effect on bonding, one of the cornerstones of the optimal relationship between mother and infant.

Methods: At Policlinico Abano Terme, Italy, we assessed mother's feelings towards newborns after vaginal delivery (VD) or cesarean: elective (ELCD) or emergency (EMCD). The study involved 573 consecutive, at term, healthy mothers-infant's dyads. Mothers were divided into three groups: women undergone ELCD (n = 73; 12.73%), women undergone EMCD (n = 81; 14.13%) and women who gave birth vaginally (n = 419; 73.12%). Pre-discharge, they completed Mother-to-Infant Bonding Scale (MIBS), a self-report test to measure mother's feelings toward her baby, based on eight items (Loving, Resentful, Neutral or Felt Nothing, Joyful, Dislike, Protective, Disappointed and Aggressive). High scores indicate worse mother-to infant bonding and a score ≥ 2 , established as cut-off, indicates an altered bonding.

Results: The average global score was 0.50 (± 1.05) in VD mothers, 0.67 (± 1.14) in ELCD mothers and 0.92 (± 1.05) in EMCD mothers, with $p=0.001$. The percentage of altered bonding was significantly higher in EMCD women (23.45% vs. 11.21%; $p<0.006$). Moreover, EMCD mothers scored significantly higher in Joyful ($p<0.005$), Disappointed ($p<0.008$), and Dislike ($p<0.072$).

Conclusion: In conclusion, emergency cesarean delivery could negatively affect mother bonding and opening emotions, and originates in mother feelings like sadness, disappointment and dislike for the unplanned delivery evolution.

Notes: