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Title: Socio-demographic and obstetric risk factors for postnatal depression morbidity in primiparous and multiparous women

ABSTRACT

The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) was used to screen a sample of 252 women at six and twelve weeks postpartum. Information on socio-demographic and obstetric variables was collected at the screening interview. The risk factors associated with high EPDS scores (> 12/13) were determined. Five independent variables were found to be associated with EPDS score above this threshold. These were: low monthly family income, no relatives helped in "Zuo Yue" period, non-breast feeding, unplanned pregnancy and teenage mother.

The study showed that 13.1% of the mothers tested positive for postnatal depression on the EPDS questionnaire at six weeks postpartum and 10.6% at twelve weeks postpartum. No significant differences were found in the severity, incidence and risk factors of postnatal depression for primiparous women compared with multiparous women.