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Abstracts

Poster and oral presentations (In alphabetical order by first author)

Development of an instrument to measure pregnancy and maternal attitudes during pregnancy

Xavier M.R.,* Paul M.C., & Sousa L.; *Catholic University of Portugal, Portugal

Psychologists are short of screening instruments, namely in Portugal, to understand/assess the way pregnant women live this special developmental phase. This presentation aims to describe the development of an instrument assessing pregnant attitudes – the Pregnancy and Maternal Attitudes Scale (E.A.G.M). Items were developed from combined experience of the authors, informal interviews with pregnant women, review of literature and other instruments.

Initial version was administered to 357 pregnant women. Data were subjected to subsequent analysis. Construct validity were studied with factor analysis resulting in 7 factors: “imagined child”; “good mother”; “pregnancy as a factor of change and personal development”; “difficulties in pregnancy and maternity”; “relationship with her own mother”; “perception of male partner support”, “body image and dependency” – alpha Cronbach varies between .58 and .76. We assessed different groups of pregnant women (e.g. medical risk) revealing good discriminative potential. Results suggest EAGM holds promise for use in maternal health care.