

Summary

The expectations of mothers of newborns treated with hypothermia

Introduction. Newborns are the patients at a neonatal ward but an equally important focus of care and attention is the recognition of their parents' needs. The experiences of sick children and their parents are unique, intimate and fleeting and their in-depth analysis should have an impact on the improvement of the quality of care over the family in this difficult and traumatic time.

Aim. The aim of the study was the analysis of the expectations of mothers of newborns treated with hypothermia

Material and methods. The research included a group of 51 mothers whose children were referred for treatment with hypothermia. Ultimately, the research included 41 mothers whose children were qualified for treatment with hypothermia. The average age of the researched group was 28 ± 4.8 years old. The average body mass increase during pregnancy was 23.5 ± 4.1 kg. The average birth weight of the newborns was $3\,357 \pm 526$ g.

The method utilised in the study was the diagnostic poll method with the use of the researcher's own questionnaire, the analysis of medical documentation and the GAS scale (SMART method) measuring the fulfilment of individual expectations.

Results. The expectations reported by the respondents were divided according to types and medical criteria. The respondents indicated 42 long-term expectations and 168 short-term expectations. Short-term expectations were the subject of the main analysis according to the GAS methodology (SMART method). The expectations related to the survival of the child were the most frequent and most important: they were fulfilled for 95.2% of the respondents above the expected level. The expectations related to dysfunctions were considered to be important for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents: most of them were evaluated to be fulfilled above the expected level. The child's treatment without any complications was important for 100% respondents, while for 75% – professional care. The only group of expectations, in which the importance level 'B-important' prevailed, were parent-child relations. For 89% respondents it was an opportunity for kangaroo care of the child, while for 82% – an opportunity to stay with the child. The average level of expectation fulfilment was rather high: 64.8 ± 17.2 pkt. Respondents satisfied with the fulfilment of their expectations were the majority; only

one out of five persons was dissatisfied. The research showed an almost perfect correlation between the level of expectation fulfilment and the index of fulfilled expectations ($R = 0.99$), which might result from the fact that most respondents classified their expectations as very important.

Conclusions. All expectations of mothers whose children were treated with hypothermia are classified as important and important, the most important of which turned out to be the survival of the child. The usefulness of the research consists in the provision of information about the expectations of mothers whose children were subjected to hypothermia treatment, which might be utilised in the preparation of standardised written consent to treat a child with hypothermia granted by the parent.

Key words: hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy, hypothermia, mothers' expectations