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Program Abstracts

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From the Editors:

The abstracts in this special supplement to the Infant Mental Health Journal (IMHJ) are organized to match the Program Book distributed at the 15th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. Abstracts were copy edited at the IMHJ Editorial office. Where abstract language seemed confusing, the copy editors attempted to capture the spirit of the written text to make it more readable to the audience. Errors that may have occurred are the responsibility of the copy editors, not the authors. Where abstracts are not presented, they were not supplied.

P614 Maternal mind-mindedness, reflective functioning and early dyadic interaction in adolescent and adult mother-infant dyads

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Introduction: Early motherhood is considered a risk factor for the relationship between mother and infant (Aiello & Lancaster, 2007). Compared to older mothers, adolescent mothers are less sensitive and more intrusive towards their children (Riva Crugnola *et al.*, 2014). Moreover, young mothers have a less mind-mindedness than adult mothers (Demers *et al.*, 2010).

Aims of the study: The aim is to analyze maternal mind-mindedness, maternal attachment, reflective functioning, and the quality of dyadic interaction styles in adolescent mother-infant dyads compared to adult mother-infant dyads.

Material and methods: The participants were 50 adolescent mother-infant dyads and 50 adult mother-infant dyads. At infant 3 months, mother-infant interaction was videorecorded; maternal mind-mindedness was coded using the Mind-Mindedness Coding Manual (Meins *et al.*, 2001) and mother's and infant's interaction styles were coded using CARE-Index (Crittenden, 1998). Moreover, Adult Attachment Interview (George *et al.*, 1985) was administered to the mothers to evaluate maternal attachment and reflective functioning (Fonagy *et al.*, 1998).

Results: Results showed that adolescent mothers had a higher proportion of insecure attachment models and lower scores on reflective functioning scale than adult mothers. Moreover, reflective functioning is positively correlated to maternal mind-mindedness. Furthermore, adolescent mothers (vs adult mothers) used less appropriate mind-related comments, more not mind-related comments, less appropriate-to-infant-development comments, and less positive comments when interacting with their children. Regarding to interaction styles, adolescent mothers were less sensitive and more intrusive than adult mothers, and their infants were less cooperative and more passive than infants of adult mothers.

Conclusions: Motherhood in adolescence is related to less mother's ability to reflect on her own and her infant's internal states of mind and low levels of maternal responsiveness and infant cooperativeness. The results suggest the importance to carry out an early intervention program to support adolescent mother-infant dyads.

P615 Drug addicted mothers and their empathic reactivity to painful cues

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Introduction: Mother-infant relationship is crucial for offspring's development. Substance-abuse has been shown to affect adults' ability to care for their children, in particular in the affective-relational aspects of parenting, such as the attachment bond and the ability to provide protection. Surprisingly, no previous study has explored neural responses associated with empathy towards children's pain in mothers with such history. Empathy is a more general construct than parenting and deficits in neural empathic responses may better explain failures in caring of addicted mothers.

Aims of the study: This study was aimed at investigating the empathic response to pain inflicted by a dangerous tool to hands of kids when compared to neutral situations in a sample of mothers with history of drug-abuse. We used Event-Related Potentials (ERPs) technique to explore the time-course of neural empathic responses to pain by virtue of its excellent time resolution. In particular, we asked whether empathic responses to pain of children would differ in drug-addicted

mothers compared to control group, during a relatively automatic early stage of processing or during a more controlled delayed one involving mentalizing.

Material and methods: Event-related potentials (ERPs) have been recorded from drug-addicted mothers (i.e., clinical) and control groups to track neural activity in a pain decision task. Stimuli were pictures showing one infant hand in painful (harmful object applied to the hand) and neutral situations (harmful object located close to the hand).

Results: Neural empathic responses towards children in pain differed between the two groups such that ERPs diverged between the painful and neutral stimulation at delayed stages of processing only for the clinical group.

Conclusions: We interpreted these results as indicating that the control group implicitly judged also the neutral situations involving children as potentially painful supporting a lack of mentalizing abilities in the clinical group when compared with controls.

P616 Coping with crying: an evidence based parent education programme to reduce non-accidental head injury

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Introduction: Coping without Crying (CWC) is a DVD based intervention preparing parents for the stress of a crying baby which educates them about the potential impact of shaking their baby.

Aims of Study: To understand how the DVD can be shown to parents, the feasibility and acceptability of different delivery models, and the impact of the film on parents' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, and the safety of their babies.

Materials and method: The DVD was shown to parents using three methods: postnatally in the first few days after birth and before discharge from hospital; postnatally after discharge from hospital before the baby was 6 weeks old; and antenatally during or after the second trimester of pregnancy.

Data using analysis of demographic information, focus groups with practitioners and parents, and a comparative telephone survey of parents who have and have not seen the film was collected.

Results: The highest proportion of parents see the film when it is shown at routine clinic appointments and in hospital and lowest reach is when it is shown in antenatal and postnatal groups and during postnatal home visits. Watching in hospital showed small but significant impacts on parents' knowledge about the dangers of shaking, attitudes towards crying and coping behaviours. Watching during the antenatal period or in the postnatal period after they had been released from hospital, showed more impacts on parents and the effect was stronger. Parents who watched the film were significantly more likely to say that they had used the coping strategies suggested in the film when compared with parents who hadn't watched the film.

Conclusions: The study shows that there are benefits to showing parents the film; that it can be a useful tool in helping support parents cope with crying babies and promotes evidence on effective delivery.