

## An Under-recognized Factor in the Development of Postpartum Depression: Infertility

M. Seven<sup>1</sup>, A. Akyuz<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of nursing, KOc University, istanbul, Turkey

---

Having a baby, giving birth and being a mother are generally considered happy events, especially for women who have had a history of infertility and may have suffered emotionally, physically and financially. Although the transition from the prenatal period to the postnatal period is usually desired and planned, it is a developmental and cognitive transition period full of complex emotional reactions. During this period, common mood disorders for women include maternity blues, postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. Postpartum depression is a common and serious mood disorder which

can jeopardize the health of the mother, baby and family within the first year of delivery. Knowing the risk factors is an important issue for the early detection and early intervention of postpartum depression. However, knowing that a history of infertility may contribute to

the development of depression during the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, there are few studies assessing the effects of infertility on the development of postpartum depression. In this review, the effects of infertility on the development of postpartum depression and health professions' roles in this issue are discussed in light with the literature.

**Key words:** *Infertility; postpartum depression; risk factors.*