
Parental Mental Health and Neglect

Sequelae of parental illness - convention vs evidence

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Fathers as well as Mothers

Association vs Causation

- ❖ Emotional
- ❖ Conduct
- ❖ Pro-social
- ❖ Cognitive

Independent and Connected

Independent

- ❖ Differing associated child outcomes of paternal vs maternal illness
- ❖ Differing effects on boys vs girls
- ❖ Medication adverse effect associations vary
- ❖ *Early screening and intervention is key*

Connected

- ❖ Paternal and Maternal depression (Paulson 2010)
- ❖ Depression and parent-child interaction (Ramchandani and Psychogiou 2009)
- ❖ Marital satisfaction (Paulson)

- ❖ *All relate to child outcome with early intervention key*

To medicate or not to medicate

- ❖ Teratogenicity
- ❖ ASD
- ❖ ADHD
- ❖ Cognitive Development

If we treat not...

- ❖ Increased risk of depression and behavioural problems in offspring
- ❖ Increased baby cortisol and hyperactive stress response
- ❖ Impaired offspring response to adversity

So...

- ❖ Health Visitors
- ❖ Midwives
- ❖ GPs
- ❖ Obstetricians

- ❖ *Early screening and referral*