Abstract

Perinatal mental disorders are serious conditions that affect the mother, child, and the whole family. Identification of women at risk with screening instruments might attenuate the negative outcomes resulting from undetected, and thus untreated mental disorders. Abroad, the Edinburg Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) and the Perinatal Anxiety Screening Scale (PASS) repeatedly showed good psychometric qualities for identification of women at risk of having postpartum depression (PPD) or perinatal anxiety disorders. Therefore, we administrated these two scales to women in the end of puerperium to assess their diagnostic accuracy and reliability and to identify the cut-off scores. Both scales showed high reliability; for the EPDS the Cronbach α was 0.863 and for the PASS it was 0.942. The EPDS showed the highest value of sensitivity (83%) for identification of PPD with the cutoff of \geq 11. The PASS showed the best combination of sensitivity (86%) and specificity (72%) for identification of perinatal anxiety disorders with the cutoff of \geq 26. Even though both scales showed relatively high specificity and negative predictive value, they also showed low positive predictive value (PPV; the likelihood that a person has a disorder when tested positive). However, the low PPVs may be tolerated in primary screening. Thus, considering the relatively high accuracy of the EPDS and the PASS in screening for PPD and perinatal anxiety disorders we can recommend their use in the Czech settings.