

Abstract

Postpartum depression (PPD) significantly affects not only the mother, but also her offspring and the functioning of her entire social network (family or friends). PPD has several risk factors (e.g. history of depression, socioeconomic status, biological factors). One factor that has received little attention in research to date is social support from partners, family and friends, which in turn has a protective effect. This bachelor thesis examines postpartum depression in women and the influence of social networks on its onset and course. Support from the partner appears to be a more important protective factor than support from others close to the woman. The thesis also discusses the discrepancy between perceived and provided support and their influence on PPD. The thesis includes a research proposal, the main aim of which is to test the influence of the absence of a partner and the presence of other close persons on the development of PPD. The question remains whether the negative effect of partner absence on the development of PPD can be compensated for, at least to some extent, by another close person. The paper concludes with a summary of the most important findings of the study and possible directions for future research.

Key words: postpartum depression, partner relationship, social networks, social support