

Abstract

The bachelor thesis is devoted to psychological aspects of parental reaction to the birth of a child with Down syndrome. The aim of this work is to contribute to better quality of interaction between these parents and paramedics within Czech perinatal environment. Consequently, the parents' unexpected acquirement of their new life roles can be facilitated.

The theoretical part of this thesis deals especially with parental emotional experience within the first moments and days of the offspring's life. The work aims to describe variables, which can affect the intensity of emotional reactions to the unexpected newborn's handicap. The thesis also focuses on parental needs which might arise. Meeting these needs can significantly influence the following course of the reaction. A certain part of the text concentrates on different communication instruments, which are relevant when interacting with parents of such handicapped babies.

Another part of the thesis describes the layout of the research project. Its qualitative methodology lays a path to capture the following aspects: emotional experience and needs of parents of children postnatally diagnosed with Down syndrome, parents' relating to a medical team, the way the parents anticipate the future and finally their relating to an early contact with their new-born. The work suggests a semi-structured interview, five mothers and five fathers of children with Down syndrome will be addressed. The data will be analysed according to the principles of the Phenomenological Interpretative Analysis approach.

Keywords

Down syndrome, loss, crisis, feelings of guilt, attribution of guilt