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Quality of life and stress in mothers of preterm infant with feeding problems: a cross-sectional study

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Background: Oral feeding problems are common among most preterm infants. The comorbidities of preterm infants with feeding problems are not determined. This study was carried out to investigate the quality of life and stress in mothers of preterm infants with feeding problems.

Materials and methods: The sample of study was mothers with preterm infants. Outcome measures were the score of Infants Feeding Readiness Assessment Scale (POFRAS), Parental Stress Scale: Neonate Intensive Care Unit (PSS - NICU), quality of life questionnaire (SF-36), and a socio-demographic questionnaire.

Results: There was no significant association between the POFRAS and domains of SF-36 and the subscales of the PSS - NICU. There was no correlation between stress and general physical health. On the other hand, all PSS-NICU subscales were inversely correlated with overall quality of life of mothers and general mental health.

Conclusion: The infants' appearance and behaviors was the most stressful for mothers. The physical health dimension of quality of life was affected less than the mental health dimension. Healthcare professionals should inform mothers of

preterm infants about the parental role, NICU environment, and their infants' appearance and behaviors.

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Biography

Farideh kamran is a graduate of Speech and Language Pathology from Tehran University of Medical Science and working as a Speech Therapy for more than three years. I gained valuable experience working with adults and pediatric with swallowing disorders.

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