MATERNAL-INFANT SEPARATION DURING HOSPITALIZATION AFTER BIRTH
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BACKGROUND

- Rooming-in is defined as care of the mother-infant dyad with minimal separation.
- The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative recognizes hospitals and birthing centers providing excellent aid in breastfeeding and maintaining optimal mother-infant bonding.
- To obtain a Baby Friendly Hospital designation a birthing facility must provide “rooming-in” for all mother-infant dyads, unless separation is medically necessary.
- Anderson’s mother-infant mutual caregiving model (1977) was used to guide this study. This model posits that mother-infant interaction should be self-regulatory and uninterrupted directly after birth to encourage shared maternal-infant caregiving.

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study is to examine mother-infant separation after birth as a means to understand the “rooming-in” practices at the study facility.

METHODS

- This descriptive study took place at a Midwest academic medical center, providing obstetric and neonatal care. The hospital is Magnet-designated. Data collection occurred between September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015.
- Mother-infant separation was recorded at the crib by care providers each time the infant arrived to or left the mother’s room.
- Data was de-identified and shared with the research team.
- Data was entered into Excel/SPSS® for analysis by the research team. Statistical analysis included average time of mother-infant separation, mean number of separations, mean duration of separation, and reason for mother-infant separation. In addition, differences between male and female mother-infant separations were examined.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. How much time is an infant spending, on average, separated from their mother during hospitalization after birth?

   ![Total Length of Separation](chart)

   - Total Length of Separation (cumulative throughout length of stay)

   2. What are the reasons that infants are being separated from their mothers?

   - Infants are separated from their mothers, on average, less than 60 minutes per day
   - The leading reasons for separation are circumcision and maternal request
   - There were no statistically significant differences in separation from their mothers between male female infants
   - There were no statistically significant difference in separation between ethnicities

3. How many episodes of mother-infant separation are occurring during hospitalization after birth? AND
4. How long is each episode, on average, of mother-infant separation?

<table>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Separations Range</th>
<th>Number of Separations Mean</th>
<th>Length of Separations Range (in minutes)</th>
<th>Length of Separations Mean (in minutes)</th>
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REFERENCES