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## MOTHER'S PERCEPTION OF THEIR TERM AND PRETERM BABIES

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**M**other's perception of her baby is influenced by; reactions, previous experience, age, intellectual abilities, personal and cultural experiences, lack of social support, lack of information about support resources, disappointment after birth, mature/premature birth of baby. Pediatric nurses should help to initiate and maintain love formation in prenatal, postnatal, and postnatal periods with family and infant. Adoption of mother's pregnancy after pregnancy should help mother and baby in the early postnatal period to help the mother to perceive herself and her baby positively. This study aimed to determine how mothers with term and preterm babies perceive their new born babies. The study was conducted on term and preterm infant mothers who gave birth in the training and research hospital. No sampling has been applied in this comparative descriptive research method, term baby mothers (N=60) with at least primary school graduation who accepted to participate in the study between January 2015-December 2017, who gave their first birth and had no physical and psychological problems, and 35<sup>th</sup>-37<sup>th</sup> week born preterm infant mothers (N=60) have constituted the sampling. A questionnaire and a newborn perception scale were used as a data collection tool. The questionnaires were developed by the researcher, including demographic characteristics of the mother and introductory information about postnatal characteristics. The obtained data were evaluated using the significance test for the difference between two means of number and percentage and chi-square. It was determined that premature born babies were perceived as negative while term births were perceived positive by their mothers and this difference was found to be statistically significant ( $p=0.00$ ). Furthermore, it was detected that the descriptive characteristics of term and preterm infant mothers

did not influence the perception of their infants ( $p>0.05$ ). The fact that preterm infant mothers were not informed about prenatal babysitting, and if additionally the baby was not born in the desired gender, has increased their negative perception of babies. It has been recommended to support the behavior of mothers to perceive their baby positively, especially the early initiation of the relationships of preterm infants with their mothers.

### Biography

Selen Özakar Akça received her PhD degree from Istanbul University Institute of Health Science with the thesis entitled "Risk-taking behaviours of adolescents and the effect of nursing practice on substance abuse in accordance with model of change in adolescents" in 2013. She has been working in Hitit University Health School since 2008.

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