

Abstract

Original Article

Comparison of Perceived Social Support and Mental State of Women According to Their Pregnancy Wantedness

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Abstract

Aim: This study aims to compare perceived social support and mental states of women according to whether their pregnancy was wanted.

Material and Method: This is a descriptive and correlational study. The study was conducted in Obstetrics and Gynecology Outpatient Clinics of Ataturk University Yakutiye Research Hospital in Erzurum, Turkey. The study population consists of pregnant women who applied to the Obstetrics and Gynecology Outpatient Clinics of Ataturk University Yakutiye Research Hospital. The study sample consists of 405 pregnant women admitted to the related hospital between June and September of 2014, and who agreed to participate in the study. "Personal Information Form", "Brief Symptom Inventory" and "Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support" (MSPSS) were used for data collection. Percentages, means, standard deviations, t-test, chi-square and Pearson correlation tests were used to evaluate the data.

Results: It was found that the total Brief Symptom Inventory mean scores of the women with wanted and unwanted pregnancies were 37.10 ± 18.72 and 59.31 ± 11.74 respectively, and the mean Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support scores of the women with wanted and unwanted pregnancies were 65.77 ± 16.55 and 50.61 ± 21.27 respectively. According to these mean scores, it was determined that perceived social support and the mental states of pregnant women were at a good level in general, albeit better in women whose pregnancy was wanted.

In the study, a statistically significant negative relationship was found between total mean scores taken in the Brief Symptom Inventory, and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support.

Conclusion: Having a wanted pregnancy and perceived social support were found to affect the mental state of pregnant women positively.

Keywords: Mental State, Nursing, Pregnancy, Social Support