TITLE: Proximity of Mother and Newborn to Enhance Bonding and Recovery Following Cesarean Section: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the maintenance of close proximity between mother and newborn to enhance the bonding and improve recovery following cesarean section?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines pertaining to the proximity between mother and newborn following cesarean section?

KEY MESSAGE

The guidelines indicate that early skin to skin contact should be encouraged, and mother-baby separation minimized, following cesarean section. No systematic reviews were identified that addressed the research questions.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 2), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Ovid PsycInfo, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2006 and February 22, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.
RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

Two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding maintenance of close proximity between mother and newborn after cesarean section. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, or meta-analyses were identified. Additional articles of potential interest have been provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The identified clinical guidelines suggest that early skin to skin contact should be encouraged, and mother-baby separation minimized following cesarean section. Early contact between mother and baby can result in improvement of mothering skills, reduced crying from the baby, and an improvement in breastfeeding outcome. It is feasible for the mother to begin breastfeeding in the operating room during closure of the surgical incision provided assistance is given to help support the weight of the baby. If this is not possible, breastfeeding can be initiated in the recovery room once the mother is alert enough to hold the baby on her own. No information was identified regarding the proximity of mother and baby following cesarean section and its effect on recovery.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Guidelines and recommendations

   See: Care of the Baby Born by CS, point 3


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Randomized controlled trials


Guidelines – general post-natal care


Review articles


Additional references
