

UNTREATED PERINATAL PATERNAL
DEPRESSION: EFFECTS ON OFFSPRING

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PII: S0165-1781(16)30928-3
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.02.064>
Reference: PSY10366

To appear in: *Psychiatry Research*

Received date: 29 May 2016
Revised date: 18 February 2017
Accepted date: 24 February 2017

Cite this article as: Salvatore Gentile and Maria Luigia Fusco, UNTREATED PERINATAL PATERNAL DEPRESSION: EFFECTS ON OFFSPRING, *Psychiatry Research*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.02.064>

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ABSTRACT

Transition to parenthood represents an important life event which increases vulnerability to psychological disorders. Aim of this article is to analyze all studies which investigated the effects of untreated perinatal paternal depression in offspring. We searched pertinent, peer-reviewed articles published in English (January 1980-April 2016) on MEDLINE, PsycINFO, and Science.gov.

Twenty-three studies met the inclusion criteria. Most of the reviewed studies suffer from methodological limitations, including the small sample, the lack of a structured psychiatric diagnosis, and inclusion bias. Despite such limitations, paternal depression seems to be associated with an increased risk of developmental and behavioural problems and even psychiatric disorders in offspring. In particular, in infants and toddlers such problems vary from increased crying to

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