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Miri Kestler-Peleg, Osnat Lavenda



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The perceived risk of pregnancy as a mediator of the association between prenatal depression and depression 5 years after giving birth

Miri Kestler-Peleg*, PhD

Osnat Lavenda, PhD

Ariel University, Israel

*Correspondence information: Emek Doran 1, Kochav Yair, Israel. E-mail address: mirikp@ariel.ac.il (K.-P. Miri).

Abstract

The present study examines a mother's perception of her pregnancy as risking herself and her fetus, as a mediator of the association between depressive symptoms during pregnancy and depressive symptoms 5 years after giving birth, regardless of actual objective risk. 290 Jewish Israeli mothers filled out self-reported questionnaires dealing with objective risk, subjective risk and depressive symptoms. The findings confirmed partial mediation effect, implying a potential negative impact of the preventive efforts usually made, by increasing risk perception with long-term costs for mothers, especially for those who have already developed depressive symptoms.

Keywords: Perceived risk, Pregnancy, Depression.

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