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## Child Abuse & Neglect

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### Prediction and prevention of child abuse and neglect

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#### Abstract

Utilizing an interview, a questionnaire, and observations during labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, a sample of one hundred mothers was identified as at high risk for abnormal parenting practices. These mothers were randomly divided into a "High-Risk Intervene" group (N=50) and a "High-Risk Nonintervene" group (N=50). The "Intervene" group received comprehensive pediatric follow-up by a single physician, a lay health visitor, and/or a public health nurse in the home. The "Non-intervene" group received routine care, although the results of these screening procedures were shared with the physicians and nurses responsible for their ongoing care. Another group of 50 mothers, who delivered during the same time period and who were assessed as low risk in terms of abnormal parenting practices, served as controls. When the children were approximately two years old (mean age 26.8 months), 25 families in each of the three groups were chosen at random for detailed evaluation.

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