

P01-205 - **MATERNAL DEPRESSION IN BRITISH PAKISTANI WOMEN AND THE EFFECT ON INFANT BEHAVIOUR**

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**Objective:** To investigate the effect of perinatal depression on birth weight, head circumference, length and infant behaviour in a group of Pakistani women living in the Greater Manchester area of the United Kingdom.

**Method:** Using a prospective cohort design British Pakistani women were screened using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (n=714), the Life events and Difficulty Schedule was used to measure social stress and the Schedule for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry interview to confirm the diagnosis of depression. Details of birth weight and height were taken from hospital records. Physical and cognitive development of the infants using the Bayleys Scale of Infant Development (BSID-111) was assessed at 6 months postnatal.

**Results:** There was no significant difference in birth weight ( $p=0.0948$ ) and head circumference ( $p=0.75$ ) at baseline or at 6 months between the two groups. The length of the infants of depressed mothers at 6 months was significantly less ( $p=0.02$ ) than the infants of non depressed mothers. There was also a significant difference between the two groups in adaptive behaviour in leisure ( $p=0.043$ ) and health & safety ( $p=0.049$ ).

**Conclusion:** Infants of depressed British Pakistani mothers are not more likely to weigh less at birth or 6 months when compared to infants of non depressed mothers. However they are more likely to be shorter at 6 months and score lower on the BSID on leisure and health & safety areas of adaptive behaviour.

**Keywords:** Perinatal depression, Infant behaviour, Birth weight