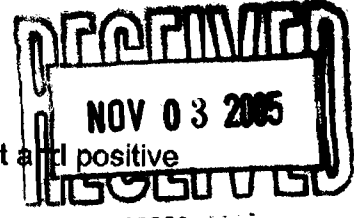


NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM
1st Review



Rev 2

Manuscript #: 2005/178
Manuscript title: Mediators of the relationship between social support and positive health practices in pregnant women
Manuscript type: Regular
Number of text pgs.: 16
Number of figures: 2
Number of tables: 1
Reviewer: Roberta F. Durham
Stat reviewer assigned?: No -- do you recommend a stat reviewer?

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

Problem statement: *2*
Attention to relevant literature: *2*
Theoretical framework: *2*
Research design: *2*
Data analysis: *1*
Discussion of results: *1*
Organization: *1*
Writing style: *1*

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

Value of topic: *3*
Probable reader interest in topic: *2*
Importance of present contribution to nursing: *3*
Priority of topic for publication: *3*
Rank this manuscript for its value: *3*

Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):

- Accept without revisions
- Accept with revisions
- Maybe accept with revisions *X*
- Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.

Rev 2

2005/178

Mediators of the relationship between social support and positive health practices on pregnant women

Problem statement

The purpose of the study was to examine the association between social support and positive health practices in pregnant women and test the relationships by examining two mediator variables, perceive health status and optimism. This is an area of concern to perinatal nurses however the author does not provide sufficient background to support the relevance of examining these particular variables with pregnant women in this report.

Literature review

Literature on the variables is reviewed and rationales for the mediator models are presented. However little theoretical literature on pregnancy is addressed, for example classic pieces by Mercer and Norbeck are not cited. Jane Norbeck has done some pivotal work in social support and pregnancy and discussion of that research may illuminate social support areas under investigation here. Theoretical literature on the context of pregnancy is never really addressed in this report.

Theoretical framework

Literature supporting mediation models is presented but importance of these variables during pregnancy is not sufficiently addressed.

Research design

This paper reports the findings of a study that examined the association between social support and positive health practices examining two mediational variables, perceive health status and optimism. The sample was primarily (about 80%) Caucasian, married, college educated pregnant women recruited through childbirth classes. That limits the generalizability of the findings particularly to those women that are at highest risk for poorer perinatal outcomes, single, low income minority women. The risk status of the participants was not controlled for which can confound the findings on health status and optimism.

A power analysis is reported and the researcher achieved an appropriate sample size.

Women were recruited between 21-40 weeks gestation, with a mean gestational age of 32 weeks. However, there was no consideration of the impact of gestational age on either

health perception or optimism which would be expected to vary based on gestational age. For example as pregnancy advances do women feel more optimistic and/or does women's perceived health status change with advancing pregnancy? Does optimism increase with increasing gestational age? This may be relevant as some of the sample has preivable gestations. Parity is also not addresssed and prior pregnancy and childbirth experience may impact all of the variables.

Most of the instruments used have been tested with pregnant women except for the General Health Rating Index which one would expect to be impacted by the common discomforts of pregnancy particularly towards the end of gestations.



The value of the optimism variable in the models was not sufficiently justified.

On page 7, the last paragraph reports almost a third of the sample was depressed prior to pregnancy and over 10% currently depressed on a single item question. This does not seem to be an appropriate measurement of depression and was not part of the models presented in this report. Also on page 15 findings related to depression are reported and I would suggest those may not be appropriate to report based on a one item question.

Regression analysis appears appropriate and models were tested.

Organization

Paper is well organized. Several sections could be further developed. Clinical implications are appropriate to the findings.

Style of presentation

Style of presentation is clear and concise.