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A literature review of father competencies required during the prenatal periodIzumi Ueda¹, Naomi Okada², Madoka Yokoyama¹, Michiyo Hirano³, Kazuko Saeki³ and Mariko Kawaharada³¹Sapporo Medical University, Japan²Japan Health Care College, Japan³Hokkaido University, Japan

The problem of child abuse and neglect is a serious societal issue in Japan. We began research of the development of a father support program for needs during the prenatal period to prevent child abuse and neglect. In Japan, concerns and facilities for supporting the father are few. Maternity classes for prospective fathers and mothers have been conducted by maternity hospitals or municipalities. However, the participation is voluntary and participation of fathers is limited. Further, we feel that the abilities of and support necessary for fathers during the prenatal period are not established. An objective of this study is to identify the roles and abilities required of fathers during the prenatal period through a literature review. Using the medical literature database, we searched the literature using two key terms, “father” or “husband” and “pregnancy” or “childbirth” or “childcare” and identified 208 papers. From these we extracted 37 papers related to Japan for the prenatal period published in the last 10 years (up to March, 2017), excluding special case-reports. The reported competencies required of fathers during the prenatal period were ‘knowledge and action’, ‘understanding of roles’, ‘empathy’ and ‘strength of the marital partnership’. It appears that empathy and the husband-wife relationship are strongly related and we propose that there is a need for a program to support the competencies of fathers to strengthen the empathy towards the partner, as well as develop the husband-wife relationship during the prenatal period.

Biography

Izumi Ueda currently working as a Public Health Nurse in Japan. Currently he/she is an Associate Professor in the Nursing Department of Sapporo Medical University. His/her research themes include, identification of core-competency in home nursing care education, development nursing skill education core-curriculum, processes of home nursing care and development of father support program during prenatal period.

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