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An Intergenerational Approach of Bio-Behavioral and Representational Organizations of Attachment in Infant-Mother Dyads : A Preliminary Study

Results:

This study was aimed to assess the quality of the attachment relation between infant-mother (N= 31 dyads) during the *Strange Situation* and to examine their heart-rate (through the Holter – Mortara, PR, 4) during this experimental procedure.

Fourteen infants were classified as secure (B pattern), 10 as insecure-avoidant (A group) and 7 as insecure-resistant (C group). This distribution is similar to those found in other studies with middle class and low risk samples. No significant differences were found among the attachment patterns in terms of the infant's cardiac baseline. However, significant differences were found between secure and insecure groups in terms of their heart-rate during the *Strange Situation*: the ambivalent babies (C group) showing an increase especially in the two separation episodes (5 and 8).

In general, similarities were found between insecure-avoidant and secure babies (for instances, a decrease of their heart-rate - in episode 7 - when they are with the strange figure and after being alone in episode 6) but the former showed an increase in their heart-rate during the second reunion with their mothers (episode 8). No relations were found between the mother's and infant's heart-rate and the attachment patterns.

Published Work:

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