OP15

LONG TERM IMPROVED LANGUAGE AND COGNITION OF PRETERM WITH KANGAROO MOTHER CARE

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Objective:

To investigate the possible long term influence of the kangaroo method care on language and cognition in preterm toddlers.

Methods:

A sample of 41 preterm babies (22 assisted by kangaroo method care (KMC) and 19 not assisted by this method) were evaluated by the corrected age from 8 to 14 months, concerning language and cognition. The Bayley Scale of Infant Development III was used in assessing raw scaled and composite scores for cognition and language (expressive and receptive).

Results:

The KMC group presented significantly higher score than the no-KMC group for both raw scaled and composite scores in cognition as well in language perfomance ($p < 0.001$) for all comparisons.

Conclusions:

KMC induces a long term better perfomance in the development of language and cognition in preterm toddlers.